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# THE TIMES

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## THE TOY REVOLUTION

The life of tomorrow's child

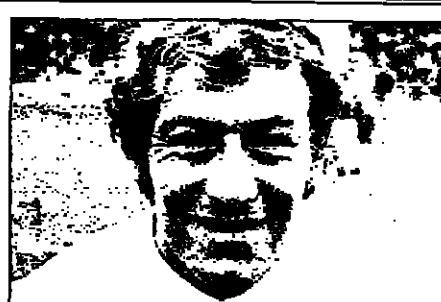
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## BATTLE OF THE QCs

Music hall or solemn justice?

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## THE FLIGHT OF SKILLS

Football on the decline

Page 33

## French fallout uncovers cabinet strains

# Major bids to halt Maastricht revolt

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

**Pound slumps:** The pound fell sharply yesterday as dealers anticipated a base rate cut which never came. By the Bank of England close sterling stood at DM2.5456, meaning sterling effectively has been devalued by 13.7 per cent from its former mid-point of DM2.95 in the exchange-rate mechanism. The stock market closed 6.9 points down at 2560.1. Page 17

settled at 51.05 per cent in favour of Maastricht with 48.95 per cent against and 30 per cent abstaining. Mr Major's strategy appears to be to wait for the storm generated by the devaluation of the pound to die down in the hope that EC leaders can eventually press ahead with an amended treaty. He will not bring back the bill ratifying the treaty until Denmark has made clear where it stands. It was clear last night however that Mr Major's search for a compromise will be bitterly resisted by the diehard anti-federalists in his party. James Cran, Tory MP for Beverley, predicted "trench warfare" in the Commons if the prime minister brings back the bill. Lord Tebbit, the former Tory party chairman,

said the treaty had been "knocked completely off the rails" and joined other anti-marketisers in demanding a British referendum on economic and political union. The fallout from the French referendum produced renewed signs of cabinet strains. Remarks made by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, at the International Monetary Fund meeting in Washington, were interpreted by the Eurosceptics as signalling support for a plebiscite. "The French referendum has demonstrated the need to consult public opinion to see that it is taken into account," he said. But Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Downing Street sources immediately ruled out such a step. Downing Street said Mr

## Lamont looks on the bright side

WAS it just gallows humour, or was Norman Lamont, that notoriously dour bearer of bad tidings, actually a happy man? At first the Chancellor tried to deny all accusations of good humour. When challenged to explain the broad grin on his face at his press conference in Washington, he insisted that he was no more or less cheerful than he had always been. But the celebrated pursed lips, twinkling eyes and busy eyebrows gave him away. The other finance ministers were all wearing their usual lugubrious demeanours as they awaited the French referendum result. The central bankers were looking as solid and upright as tree trunks. So for Mr Lamont, the contrast meant that the game was up. He reflected for a moment, perhaps recalling that British politics had entered a new and more honest phase after the devaluation. Then he blurted out his confession: "My wife said she'd never heard me singing in the bath until last week."

Mr Lamont's sudden cheerfulness suggested that he knew something the world would love to know, but was not telling. That something might have been the knowledge that he would resign on Thursday and return to a quiet life in the Scottish Highlands. More likely, however, Mr Lamont had a card up his sleeve which could transform him from a universal scapegoat into Britain's most popular politician in the space of a few weeks. The sophisticated way of trying to guess the nature of Mr Lamont's hidden trump card is to look at the Bank of England's dealings in the money market, assess the fluctuations in three-month inter-bank rates, or calculate the rate of discount on short sterling futures. All these suggest that a cut in interest rates is on the way, but that it may be no more than a paltry half-point. The cruder, but probably more reliable, technique was to look into the eyes not only of Mr Lamont, but also of his entourage of Treasury and Bank of England officials. If the cheerfulness of the entire British delegation in Washington was attributable to gallows humour, then it was not just the Chancellor but the entire Treasury and Bank of England that was due for the chop. The relief among all the British officials was palpable in every conversation. They seemed to be itching to get back to their desks, to face the brave new world of economic

*An enigmatic smile suggests imminent retirement or a cut in rates, writes Anatole Kaletsky*

Continued on page 16, col 7

Lamont had been referring to the British tradition of deciding such matters through parliamentary democracy.

Mr Hurd's remarks are likely to anger the Eurosceptics, who are increasingly coming to see Mr Lamont and his readiness to accept a floating pound as a potential ally in their battle to force the government to change tack. Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, accused Mr Lamont of returning to the "monetarist and isolationist excesses of Thatcherism".

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary and a leading pro-European, went further than the prime minister in declaring that the Maastricht treaty would survive the present uproar. "The British government negotiated the Maastricht treaty, signed the Maastricht treaty, fought an election having signed the treaty, and got a huge majority on the second reading of the bill in the House of Commons," he said on Radio 4's *The World at One*.

In an article in yesterday's *Evening Standard* Mr Major portrayed himself as sensitive to the arguments advanced by opponents of Maastricht, saying he had found a battle against those who wanted greater integration and much more authority for Brussels.

The government had won vital safeguards for Britain, preserving the freedom of action to stand aside from economic and monetary union. "We are not committed to the goal of a single currency. We can decide not just when to join a single currency, but whether to join at all."

Mr Major insisted that Britain would not rejoin the ERM until its flaws had been put right. It is understood that he wants to see a better system of central bank support for an ailing currency. At the same time

Full analysis, pages 2-3  
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*The cure is worse than the illness...*

Continued on page 16, col 7



Uncertain future: Dr Cox leaving court with his girl friend, Jennifer Green

## GMC to decide on doctor's future

By JEREMY LAURANCE

NIGEL Cox, the hospital consultant given a 12-month suspended prison sentence yesterday for attempting to murder a dying patient, could continue with his career if the General Medical Council decides not to strike his name off the medical register.

Dr Cox, who said that he was devastated by the jury's verdict, faces an investigation by the council, which controls the register of doctors permitted to practise in Britain.

His case is to be referred to the preliminary proceedings committee, possibly next month, which will decide whether he should be brought before a full public hearing of the council.

There is likely to be a strong feeling among the committee, which includes two lay members, that Dr Cox has suffered enough at the hands of the court and should not be subjected to the ordeal of a further hearing. But the counter argument will be that the public could lose confidence in the profession if the council took no action following a conviction for attempted murder.

"I will need an awful lot of convincing that the public needs protecting from Dr Cox," said Dr Michael O'Donnell, a member of the preliminary proceedings committee. "But the attitude of the two lay members will carry a lot of weight. If they decide we should go ahead it will be very difficult for the doctors to decide otherwise."

If the case goes forward to a full public hearing, the council could reject the court's finding and accept that Dr Cox's primary intention was to relieve pain, not to shorten life. If it finds him guilty it could publicly admonish him, suspend him from the register temporarily or erase his name completely, which would end his career.

Betrayal of duty, page 5  
Janet Daley, page 12

## Two killed in blast at chemical plant

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO people died and 15 were injured by an explosion which ripped through a chemical plant and office block near the centre of Castleford in west Yorkshire yesterday. The toll could have been higher had not many staff been off the site on their lunch break.

The blast happened at 1.30 pm as a routine maintenance check was carried out at one of the main distilleries of the Hickson and Welch chemical company. More than 100 firemen and 17 fire engines were called to the scene.

A number of the injured, including at least one fireman, were treated for burns. Others were treated for the effects of chemical contact.

Some casualties were taken to Pinderfields hospital in

Wakefield, which contains the regional burns unit, while others went to the Pontefract general infirmary. A number were released after treatment for shock.

For a time residents were warned to stay indoors and remove any clothing that might have been contaminated. It was more than two hours before emergency services were able to confirm that a cloud of smoke over the plant was not toxic.

David Fyfe, managing director of Hickson and Welch, said that the explosion occurred when maintenance work on a tank holding hundreds of gallons of liquid nitro-toluene went wrong. The chemical is used in making a

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atlantic

## BBC drama series provokes wrath of the Paras

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC accustomed to coming under fire, is now facing the wrath of the senior hierarchy of the Parachute Regiment over a new television drama series which begins tonight. The Ministry of Defence is also displeased.

Lieutenant General Sir Michael Gray, colonel commandant of the regiment, has appealed to Sir Michael Checkland, director-general of the BBC, to intervene over the series which he claims is "grossly inaccurate" and "highly damaging" to the reputation of British soldiers. General Gray has sent Sir Michael a list of more than 50 alleged errors and "implausible scenarios" in the series about paratroopers leaving the army and competing for jobs as civilians.

The complaints are directed at *Civies*, a BBC series written by award-winning author Lynda La Plante. The MoD refused to have anything to do with the

programme when the BBC originally sent a synopsis of the storyline.

General Gray yesterday said he admired the author's previous work which includes the acclaimed drama series *Prime Suspect*. However, he said the new series gave a bad impression of the Parachute Regiment and of the army.

In his letter to Sir Michael, General Gray said the series came at an unfortunate moment for all the armed services. Under *Options for Change*, the government's defence review, the army was being cut back by 40,000 by 1995 "and the message to be passed to prospective employers, not to mention soldiers awaiting discharge, is hardly encouraging and quite unrepresentative of the real situation".

The general made his complaint after reading the book *Ms La Plante* has written on the series. While he appreciated the story was fictional, "by innuendo it reflects much that is objectionable to a soldier and is grossly inaccurate". Since

the aim was to "show a failure to prepare our young men to be civvies", he said it was surprising that there was no mention of the army resettlement courses and other assistance given to soldiers about to leave the forces.

General Gray said the Parachute Regiment enjoyed its tough reputation. But the characters portrayed in the series were "over the top". "All the characters are real. I recognise them but they are the exception, not the rule," he said. He has asked Sir Michael "to redress the imbalance". Among the list of alleged errors, the general said karate and kickboxing were not taught to paratroopers as a skill.

A spokesman for BBC drama said General Gray would receive a reply from Sir Michael and the points he had raised would be studied. However, he emphasised that the complaints were made on the basis of the paperwork, not the television series, and that *Civies* was a fictional drama, not a documentary.



General Gray: series shows army in bad light

## ON OTHER PAGES

### Molyneaux in Dublin

The leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, James Molyneaux, yesterday became the first Unionist leader in 70 years to negotiate in Dublin with ministers of the Irish republic about the future of Northern Ireland.

He had more than four hours of talks on obstacles in building new relationships between the north and south. Page 16

### Body identity

Police are expected to confirm that the second body found in a forest south of Sydney is that of Caroline Clarke, 22, a British tourist. Page 4

### Book famine

British schools, short of funds, say they cannot afford basic books. Extracts have to be photocopied according to an independent report. Page 7

### Briton killed

A Briton, Edip Sadioglu, was among seven foreign Muslims killed in Yugoslavia when their convoy was hit by a shell in the town of Mostar. Page 10

### ERM warning

Economists have warned Norman Lamont that the government's search for anti-inflationary measures to follow the discipline of the exchange-rate mechanism could ruin its credibility. Page 2

### Shops sold

Sears, best known as owners of Selfridges and the Saxe shoe shops chain, has pulled out of menswear retailing by selling its 350 Fosters and Your Price menswear shops to their management. Page 17

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THE WAY  
AHEAD FOR  
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Lamont's keynote  
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John Smith  
addresses party  
conference

OCTOBER 5

EC foreign  
ministers discuss  
wider  
membership in  
LuxembourgDanes and French  
give their verdict:  
one fudge too many

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

FRANCE'S "yes" vote created a brief frisson of excitement among the draftsmen of the Maastricht treaty, who have been forced to watch the fruit of their work battered by critics throughout a long damp summer. But yesterday the euphoria wore off rapidly as the implications sank in.

Since the Danes rejected the treaty on June 2, it has met only setbacks. The hair's breadth majority in France may be enough to save President Mitterrand from premature departure from office, but it is nowhere near large enough to save the sinking treaty. European Community leaders are locked in a pattern of promises to each other that have provoked widespread scepticism and mistrust among their citizens.

Some opposition to Maastricht may subside, but the Danish and French campaigns have left one conclusion imprinted on the minds of the prime ministers who will meet under John Major's chairmanship in October: that Europe's citizens think that the treaty's disjunctive compromises are one fudge too many.

In New York last night, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, might well have reminded his EC colleagues

that the Maastricht summit ignored Machiavelli's advice on high-level negotiation: "It is an error for princes to come together in their persons to consummate what their envoys have failed to do."

But Mr Hurd was much more likely to have given his counterparts a recital of other business that the Community can tackle, irrespective of the chaos over Maastricht. Most EC governments are sure that this is a diversionary tactic to distract attention from ratification headaches in London.

The traffic of meetings, minutes and messages between EC chancellors, which always precedes a summit, will revolve around one question: can Maastricht be railroaded through all 12 states with only cosmetic changes — or must we all think again?

The idea of reopening the treaty, defined as 250 pages of text and 17 protocols, fills most governments — except the British and Danish — with horror. In a renegotiation, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, might feel unable to agree the programmed disappearance of the mark.

## THE TREATY

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Smith prepares to  
paper over cracksBY JILL SHERMAN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith, the Labour leader, is expected to fudge party policy over both Maastricht and the exchange-rate mechanism in the face of growing pressure from shadow cabinet members to re-think the party's pro-European stance.

A policy paper which will be put to the national executive committee and the shadow cabinet tomorrow is likely to favour a system of stable or managed exchange rates but will not commit Labour to re-entering the ERM in its present form. It will call for a mechanism to guard against speculation and will support an anti-inflationary strategy with action to boost the economy. The paper, which was being hastily drawn up yesterday, will argue that Britain's future lies in Europe but that any decision on Maastricht should be postponed until

after the Danish position becomes clear.

Mr Smith's determination to paper over the cracks in the party and avoid confrontation coincided with further public statements from his shadow cabinet colleagues.

David Blunkett, shadow health secretary, called for Labour to change the emphasis of its policy, while John Prescott, shadow transport secretary, said Maastricht was dead and could not be adapted for the Danes. Bryan Gould, shadow heritage minister, said the government's decision to put Maastricht and the ERM on the back-burner removed any obligation for Labour to press for either.

Meanwhile Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, accused Norman Lamont of returning to the "monetarist and isolationist excesses of Thatcherism".

His poll ratings are plummeting at home and his coalition is paralysed by morose internal squabbling and fierce attacks from outside. The Bundesbank has forced the exchange-rate mechanism into a looser and more adjustable framework, breaking out of the untenable French insistence that currencies supposedly en route to merger should not realign.

Germany is not scheduled to finish ratifying the treaty in parliament and senate until early December. Rows there will cross-infect arguments in both Britain and Denmark. With the tide of opposition still rising, Poul Schlüter, the Danish prime minister, need be in no hurry to spell out what he wants done to the treaty. The largest party in the Danish parliament, the Social Democrats, is gradually forcing him to line up a long shopping list of amendments. Danes do not like compulsory monetary union, future European defence or Brussels bureaucracy and want to keep control of immigration and welfare.

Britain, holding the EC's rotating presidency, is supposed to draft reassuring "clarifications" to be tacked on the back of the treaty without altering the sacred text itself. In theory, a Danish government armed with those concessions could have a more user-friendly treaty approved in a new referendum next spring. At the same time, optimists say, the House of Commons would plough on with all-night sittings to ratify the government's Maastricht bill. But either battle can hold up the other and the last state to ratify can wreck the entire treaty by refusing. The system provides a built-in incentive for Euro-sceptics to wait until the last moment to extract the largest concessions.

It is odd enough that Europe's leaders won't recognise this tangle for the insurmountable obstacle that it is. The British government's failure to draw the obvious conclusion is bizarre. The prime minister and foreign secretary have missed a precious opportunity over the past three months to warn their partners that the treaty has to be truly changed. Ministers are terrified of being caught fiddling with the treaty text.

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TONY BLAIR



The morning after: currency dealers at BZW in the City bring their individual styles to bear on a day of post-referendum trading. Pound slumps, page 17

Lamont warned of risks in  
new anti-inflation policy

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE government's search for anti-inflationary measures to follow the discipline of the exchange-rate mechanism could run its credibility, economists said yesterday.

Norman Lamont announced on Sunday that the government planned to return to using money supply,

ECONOMIC  
STRATEGY

among other indicators, rather than the foreign exchange rate, as the most reliable economic measure. The disclosure was coupled with the suggestion that such targets would not be published.

Last night, the Chancellor's move was welcomed by the so-called "Liverpool Six" group of free-market economists, including Sir Alan Walters, former economic adviser to Baroness Thatcher. In a letter to *The Times*, they called for significant interest rate reductions, the Bank of England to

be independent of government to achieve price stability, and for public spending cuts.

Professor Tim Congdon, one of the authors of the letter, said on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* yesterday: "In the 1980s we attacked growth and money supply and that period, while not perfect, was fairly successful. Since 1987, we have based policy on the foreign exchange, which has been a complete disaster."

However, Professor David Begg, professor of economics at Birkbeck College, London, said that the creation of "secretive" targets would do little to bolster the government's credibility.

Treasury draws  
up hit list for  
spending cuts

BY PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

TREASURY officials are drawing up a list of options for changes and cuts in public spending plans throughout Whitehall to meet the cabinet's decision to hold next year's total down to the planned limit of £244 billion.

The new cabinet committee on public spending, known as EDX and chaired by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, held its first pathfinder meeting last Thursday when officials were told to prepare a list of options. These will be considered when the committee meets next week.

This follows Mr Lamont's warning in Washington that "With sterling now floating outside the exchange rate mechanism, a rigorous approach to public spending will be even more important."

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade and a member of the committee, said yesterday in Aberdeen: "In government, we will now be forced to intensify our search for both savings and expenditure restraint. We are going to face a difficult public expenditure round, that is already clear."

These comments are partly intended to prepare spending ministers, as well as the public, for some hard decisions since the prime minister has insisted that, unlike past years, there can be no slippage in the total above the limit of £244.5 billion for 1993-4.

Some programmes may have to be cut back to finance unavoidable extra spending on social security, the introduction next April of the council tax and the new system of community care.

Only after next week's meeting of EDX will departments know what they may have to save. The options are expected to include a tight squeeze on current spending, including public sector pay.

The government has come under pressure from the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors not to cut spending on capital projects such as roads, hospitals, prisons, schools and British Rail and instead to squeeze current expenditure.

But that would raise difficult political decisions about cut-backs on social security spending, so ministers are wary of

making commitments yet. Defence is expected to face big cuts both in short and long-term spending. In the last financial year, an extra £530 million was agreed, mainly due to the cost of replacing equipment lost in the Gulf war. It is possible to delay further some of the projected equipment programmes such as an aviation support ship for the Royal Navy and the next batch of Type 23 frigates, but the effect on the budget would not be apparent for several years.

The only real potential for short-term savings is in manpower, which accounts for 43 per cent of the budget. Under the "Options for Change" defence exercise, the armed forces are due to be cut by an average of 18 per cent by 1995.

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, may have to make do with less than the 2.8 per cent real terms increase

## SPENDING

promised for the NHS in the public expenditure white paper to bring its budget up to £30 billion.

The hospital building programme is likely to be hit and pay for doctors and nurses could be squeezed. Funds for community care to be transferred to local authorities next April are also vulnerable.

Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, is understood to be bidding for £3 billion extra on his £76 billion budget, £2 billion of which will go to fund the larger than expected increase in unemployment. The demand for other benefits, including family credit and income support has also been underestimated.

Teachers' pay accounts for the largest share of the education budget, and is already certain to be squeezed in the next financial year. A pay freeze could not be ruled out. Planned rises in expenditure on school buildings could also be at risk.

John Patten, the education secretary, committed himself only last Friday to maintaining the financial advantages enjoyed by grant-maintained schools, so his options are limited.

Heseltine: a difficult  
spending round aheadBottomley: budget rise  
may be pared back

## Split over Europe will not go away

## MAJOR'S DILEMMA

For all the prime minister's efforts, the EC remains the main fault line in the Tory party, Peter Riddell writes

JOHN Major has developed two styles as prime minister — a cautious whip leaving open all his options and a stubborn leader defending issues of principle. The mixture has at times been confusing and has exposed him to charges both of evasion over Maastricht and of inflexibility over sterling.

He has now reverted to his whip's instincts as he faces the collapse of two central pillars of his premiership, sterling's membership of the exchange-rate mechanism and Britain being at the heart of Europe. Mr Major has seemed to lose control over what has been happening.

The initiative has been seized by Tory opponents of the Maastricht treaty, like Sir Teddy Taylor, William Cash, and Nicholas Budgen and the tide of opinion has been running in their direction. Mr Major's immediate response has been to play for time, to reiterate his long-term European strategy

while being ambiguous about his short-term tactics over the Maastricht treaty. There is no sign that he is retreating from his aim of putting Britain on the inside track of Europe. He will use the British presidency, and the emergency council of EC heads of government in London next month, to secure a common approach. He will seek to shift attention to completion of the single market, the Uruguay round of trade talks and relations with the new democracies of eastern Europe, on which the Tory party is united and enthusiastic.

One participant in last week's discussions emphasised that "the clear conclusion of Thursday's Cabinet

meeting was that most ministers would really like to go back into the ERM". But the Treasury has been cautious. In the short term, this is not a live issue, though there will be a fine balance between the political desire to cut interest rates and the worries of advisers that any cut should not be so large as to risk a further big drop in the pound and higher inflation. Some pro-EC ministers are worried that the change of policy since Baroness Thatcher's resignation could be under threat.

Mr Major does not want to risk confrontation with party critics at present. Any early Commons debate would be hazardous with Tory opponents of the treaty

gaining support and Labour likely to be obstructive. So he is putting off resolution of the issue until after the London summit and until Denmark has made its intentions clear.

Meanwhile, Mr Major hopes to use the interval to allay public fears over the EC. That leaves open the question of whether this will lead to a more fundamental re-think, which could seriously divide the Cabinet, or will be followed by the revival of the treaty presented in suitably modest form.

Mr Major faces eventual party divisions whichever way he finally decides on ERM re-entry and on Maastricht. By failing to take a lead now, however, he risks leaving Britain squeezed out yet again by a new Bonn-Paris axis. To adapt his own phrase about the ERM, Mr Major has discovered that, for all his efforts as Prime Minister, Europe remains the main fault line in the Tory party.

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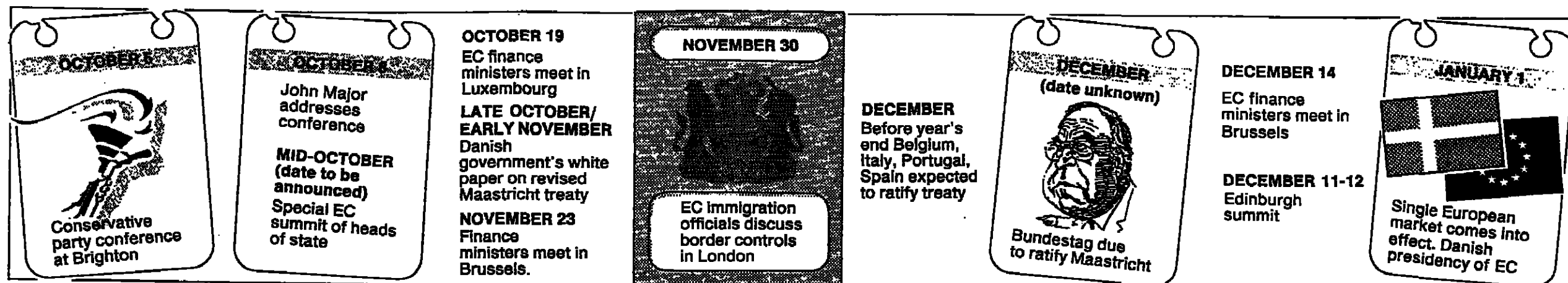
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## France: reluctant assent reveals a fractured nation

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FRANCE succumbed to the post-referendum blues yesterday as relief among the main political classes gave way to the realisation that, after weeks of their pleading, the people had really just told them to jump in the lake.

President Mitterrand may have survived his game of Russian roulette, as Valéry Giscard d'Estaing called it, but France's first direct vote on the European Community delivered a stinging home truth to the government and to the establishment which, since 1957, has "built Europe" in the people's name.

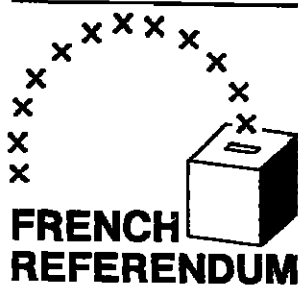
The vote settled at 51.05 per cent in favour of Maastricht

with 48.95 per cent against and 30 per cent abstention.

It threw up a portrait of a France deeply divided between town and country and rich and poor, but in some agreement over its disillusion with its political leaders.

"The Europe which has been built for 40 years, based on enlightened despotism, is over," said *Le Monde*. "In its stead must come a Europe better controlled by its own citizens." The lesson was acknowledged by chastened ministers and opposition leaders, none of whom betrayed any jubilation over the reprieve for Maastricht which their furious campaigning had extracted from a reluctant populace. France approved the Maastricht treaty, the polls showed, out of a sense of duty and reluctance to destroy the European ideal.

Paul Quilès, the interior minister, took a pragmatic approach, saying the tiny margin did not matter. "When you win, you win. What history will record is that the French



**FRENCH REFERENDUM**  
HOW THEY VOTED

wanted to ratify the treaty," he said.

The *petit oui* of half a million out of 38 million eligible citizens saved France from repudiating an institution created and largely shaped by its own statesmen. *Le Figaro* said: "Never again can anyone say that Europe was imposed by Brussels, Bonn or elsewhere."

However, the vote hardly brought any serenity, given the gloom mood of a reluctant electorate. Rarely has Mitterrand seemed so out of touch than in his television appearance. Frail from his prostate operation, the 75-year-old president looked for all the world like one of the Kremlin gerontocrats of the 1970s when he insisted that the vote had "ensured the future of France" and animated Europe as a new "superpower".

Among the ironies of the referendum was the way that Mitterrand had been abandoned by the Socialist-voting electorate that put him and his party in power in 1981 and saved by the wealthier classes which had voted against him. This was testimony to a rift across the geographic and social landscape.

Maastricht was rejected with force by much of the countryside and by the north, the south and the centre in particular. It was approved strongly in the east and unex-

pectedly in Brittany. It was approved in most big towns and above all in Paris. In the fashionable Left Bank, the ritzy 16th arrondissement and the chic suburb of Neuilly-sur-Seine, the approval rate topped 70 per cent.

Rejection came most heavily from the "disinherited": the peasant farmers, workers and small shopkeepers, a force which increasingly supports the populist right and to a lesser extent the Communists and the "Bonapartists" left, grouped around Jean-Pierre Chevènement.

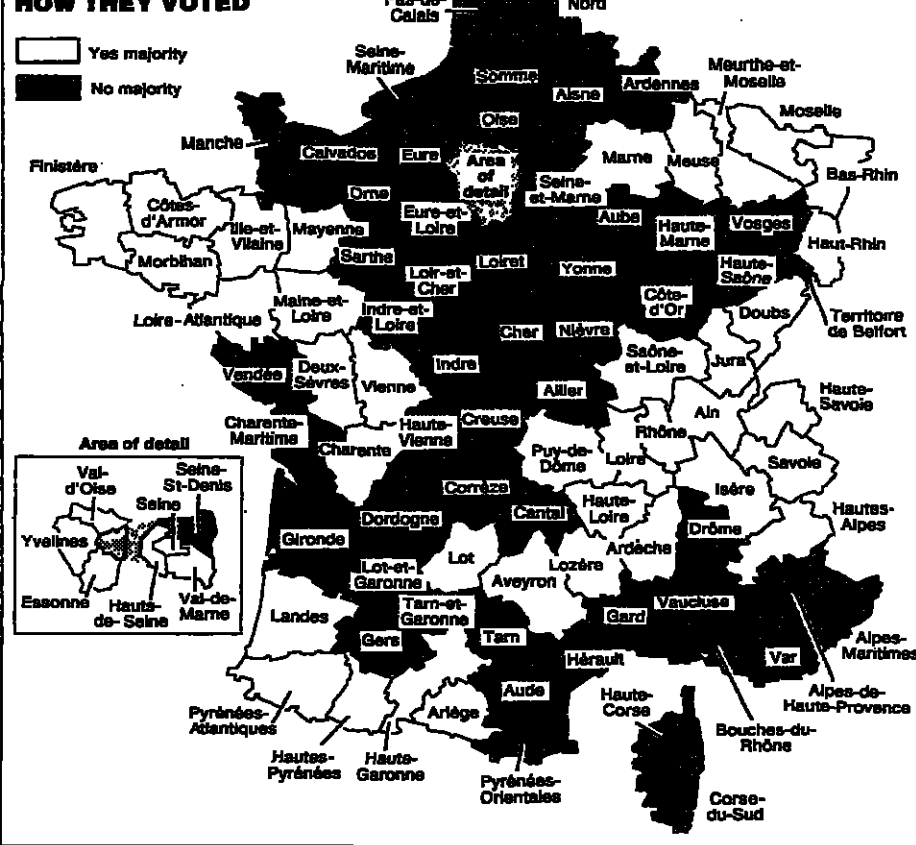
"We are confronted with two profoundly unreconcilable Frances," said *Le Quotidien de Paris*. "The side which said 'no' rejects traditional political recipes. It is in revolt."

Despite all the talk of nothing being the same again after Maastricht, the parties seem intent on closing ranks for a traditional battle in the run-up to parliamentary elections, due next March. The opposition, split by quarrels over Maastricht, is expected to mount a parliamentary vote of censure against the government. M. Séguin and Charles Pasqua, the Gaullist dissidents, have pledged their loyalty to M. Chirac as the party's presidential candidate, though their hands are greatly strengthened because only 26 per cent of party supporters voted "yes".

The big question concerns Mitterrand's intentions. Despite the opposition disarray, few expect him to dissolve parliament, given that the referendum confirmed the collapse of Socialist support.

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### FRENCH REFERENDUM: HOW THEY VOTED



FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN PARIS

THE only real surprise in the barrage of percentage, slide and swing figures to hit France in the wake of the referendum came from Brittany. If the farmers in France's most westerly region had voted like their fellows in other agricultural areas, the Maastricht treaty would today be in shreds.

But the four departments in Brittany backed European union 60 per cent to 40. Loire-Atlantique, traditionally a part of Brittany but which falls outside the official borders, also bucked the national trend. Fifty-seven per cent there voted "yes".

The scores in other departments reflected the levels for unemployment and agricultural activities. The more people on the dole are unsure of their jobs, the higher the "no" vote.

Nowhere was this more evident than in Paris. In the increasingly wealthy capital, 63 per cent threw their votes behind Maastricht.

But in the "red belt" of council highrise housing that rings Paris, there was a clear alienation from the political

### VOTING TRENDS

slender majority to the "no" side. Charles registered 54 per cent in favour, the department rejected the treaty by the same proportion.

Château-Chinon, where President Mitterrand traditionally casts his vote, backed Maastricht 59 per cent. The Nièvre department that encircles it rejected it by 51 per cent. Thirteen regions voted "no": Picardie, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Haute-Normandie with more than 55 per cent. Nine areas voted "yes": Alsace and Brittany with more than 60 per cent.

Corsica, in a predictable and rebellious gesture towards Paris, voted "no" with 57 per cent.

## Struggling lira forces Rome to slash public spending

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE lira remained under pressure yesterday in spite of the "yes" vote in France as the Italian government braced itself for a wave of unrest over its tough 1993 budget package.

"There is a lot of turbulence in the markets after the referendum," one Milan merchant banker said. "The outlook for the economy is still not that good. The feeling here is that

the lira has not been devalued enough." The lira was quoted at 840 to 843 to the German mark yesterday compared with 841 on Friday, reflecting disappointment at the narrow "yes" and concern over the structural weakness of the economy. There was a timid rally on the Milan bourse, where the share value index rose by 1.7 per cent.

Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, expressed deep relief over the "yes" vote, which gave

### ITALY

him considerable respite in the battle to chip away at the £70 billion budget deficit. Trade union leaders, however, have threatened a wave of four-hour strikes for today in protest at the 1993 budget package approved by the cabinet on Thursday.

Italians have been anxiously reading the small print of the package, published on Satur-

day, discovering some unpleasant surprises, especially over the extent of cuts in the national health service. Every one with an income of at least 40 million lire (£18,000) a year will have to pay for all but emergency health treatment.

Interest from government bonds, one of the most popular forms of investment for small savers, will be taken into account in assessment of eligibility for health care.

Piero Barucci, the treasury

minister, said in Washington on Sunday that the lira would not return to the exchange-rate mechanism today nor was it likely to do so soon. Figures released yesterday showed inflation at its lowest level since November 1988.

Signor Amato believes that only the fear of being perpetually relegated to the second division of Europe will persuade Italians to make sacrifices to prevent the country sinking in public debt.

## Pressure grows for EMU opt-out

AFTER the close "yes" victory in France and a week of currency turmoil in Europe, a growing all-party lobby in Germany is demanding that parliament be given the power to opt out of European monetary union. While Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, now wants urgently to press on with ratification, support is gathering for those who want to slow down the planned introduction of EMU by the end of the century.

Britain has been granted an opt-out clause in the Maastricht treaty, and some German politicians are pursuing a similar option. Björn Engholm, the leader of the Social Democratic opposition, said that the turbulence of the money markets showed that "the optimum of stability has not yet been reached" and therefore there should be no question of automatically moving ahead with EMU. He suggested that there should be an intermediary stage with the national parliaments having a final say on the time to move ahead.

That view is shared by

More and more Germans want the same escape clause on monetary union that Britain was given, Ian Murray writes

Count Otto Lambsdorff, the leader of the Free Democrats, the junior partner in the ruling coalition. He said the planned automatic transition to a common European monetary and currency union should be reviewed and any entry into the further stages of monetary union ought to be subject to a new decision by parliament.

Volker Rühe, the defence minister and former Christian Democratic Union general secretary, has also questioned the wisdom of going ahead with EMU as planned. Herr Rühe, who sees himself as a future chancellor and who has a good feel for grassroots opinion, is counselling caution, although not yet quite calling for a parliamentary right of veto.

The direction of Maas-

tricht is still right," he said. "The speed of it will depend on how fast we can solve the problems. You cannot artificially create a European currency."

An opinion poll for television yesterday showed that Christian Democrat voters were more opposed to the Maastricht treaty than supporters of the Social Democrats. The European union ideas were backed by 39 per cent of Christian Democrats compared with 52 per cent of Social Democrats.

Herr Kohl, welcoming the French referendum result as "a boost for Europe", promised to ratify the treaty and work for enlargement of the Community. But he also said: "We must learn from the experiences of the past week, talk about possible causes of

mistakes and remedy them." He said he had asked John Major to ensure that at next month's special EC summit there would be discussion about the future development of Europe. "It is important for all German citizens to know that in the [European] political union, the identity of the Germans and the French will not be surrendered."

The first reading of the bill on German ratification of the Maastricht treaty will go before the Bundestag on October 7. Two constitutional changes, giving foreigners the right to vote in local elections and making it possible for a European central bank to take precedence over the Bundesbank, are necessary before ratification is possible. Both require a two-thirds majority of Bundestag members. The Bundesrat (upper house) has made its necessary support to these changes conditional on another constitutional change, which will give the *Länder* (states) the right of consultation and veto over any legislation which transfers power to Brussels.

## 'Nons' make the Danes feel great

BY PETER MILLAR

THE sign for the Baltic ferry on the motorway outside Copenhagen is intended as an advertisement: "Gedser-Rostock." It reads: "the fast lane to Europe". The irony is not lost on the passing citizens, who are — either pain-

### DENMARK

fully or proudly — aware that their vote started the division of the European expressway into a slow and a fast lane.

The narrow "yes" vote in France's referendum has been greeted in Denmark with something like relief. Pia Kjaersgaard, the right-winger whose Progress Party was a pillar of the opposition to the Maastricht treaty, said: "Naturally we are sorry that there is a little majority for 'yes', but there is also a big 'no'. I do not think the treaty can go ahead as it is.

Our hopes are for Great Britain now. Maybe Mr Major will have a referendum and the British people will give a very big 'no'."

After the recent turmoil, whatever now happens to Maastricht, the Danish view can no longer be portrayed as an aberration. In Copenhagen, exhilaration that the mouse that roared could frighten the ruling elite in Brussels and, more to the point, at home, had turned into anxiety that isolation from the mainstream might not be so splendid after all.

Denmark, like Britain, has long been uncertain whether it is part of the continent or an appendage. The upgrading of the ferry link to Rostock after German unification was intended to widen access to the "mainland" beyond the "corridor" of the Jutland peninsula. But the anti-immigrant violence in the eastern German port has



Kjaersgaard looks to Britain to say 'no'

not made it an attractive gateway. It has also fuelled doubts about integration in a structure in which the old enemy is the dominant force. According to Mrs Kjaersgaard, an end to the dream of European union could facilitate the incorporation of the other Scandi-

navian countries in a Community that is in effect little more than a free-trade organisation. That is also the goal of the opposition Social Democrats, whose policies on Europe would amount to abrogation of the Maastricht treaty — the one point of agreement between the left and the far right in Danish politics.

John Major's declaration that the Danes' problems must be solved before a full ratification of the treaty is seen not so much as a challenge as being left off the hook. Toger Seidenhaden, a television executive and astute commentator, said: "The British have taken the pressure off. As long as Mr Major is making nice noises and saying we must sort our problems out first, then we have no risk of being isolated. What was just our problem has become as much a problem for the 11 others."

### British Gas

Here's more good news about our continuing commitment to high quality service and lower fuel bills. From October 1st, we'll be cutting another 2% off our gas prices. This means all our domestic and other tariff customers will notice the benefits of a reduced price of gas from the first meter reading on or after October 1st. This is our second price cut in just three months. By the end of the year, the reduction made on July 1st, plus this one, will take total savings up to a total of around 5%. Customers at the new prices will be provided to all domestic gas customers with their first gas bill after 1st October, and to business customers at the time of their next meter reading. For details of our new prices, call our gas saving hotline on 0800 111 111 or visit our website at [www.britishtogas.co.uk](http://www.britishtogas.co.uk).

We're cutting the price of gas again.



## Women found dead in forest had been shot and stabbed

By DAVID YOUNG

POLICE in Australia are expected to confirm today that the second body found in a forest south of Sydney is that of the British tourist Caroline Clarke, 22. The first body has been formally identified as that of her travelling companion Joanne Walters, also 22.

Miss Walters was identified by her dental records. Miss Clarke's dental records have since been sent to Australia. Police said that Miss Walters had been repeatedly stabbed in the chest, the other woman had been shot in the head.

Miss Walters' parents, Ray and Jill Walters, had been in Australia for a month searching for their daughter. Ian

Clarke, 58, and his wife Jacqueline are now preparing to travel to Sydney from their home near Hexham, Northumberland. They were told of the discovery of the bodies as they drove home from a wedding in Surrey.

Mr and Mrs Walters, from Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan, had been travelling in New South Wales and had appeared on Australian television appealing for information about the women.

Mr Clarke will travel to Sydney once identification formalities have been completed. He said: "We have given up hope of seeing our daughter alive again. The body of Joanne has been confirmed, so we are 99 per cent sure the other body is Caroline."

"We will be flying out to bring her home and lay her to rest finally and try to rebuild our own lives," Mr Clarke, northern director for the Bank of England, said. "We were told about the discovery early on Sunday morning when our community policeman called me on my carphone and told me to pull over."

"He said the police in Australia had found two bodies. It was such a harrowing experience, you can't imagine what we have gone through. Two minutes later we heard it on the car radio; at least we were spared that."

Professor John Hilton, director of the Institute of Forensic Medicine, told a news conference in Sydney that scientific evidence indicated that both victims died around the time that they were last seen, in April. A cloth around the mouth and neck of Joanne Walters suggested that a gag had been used.

The women were last seen alive on April 16, when they left a Sydney hotel saying that they were going fruit-picking in southeastern Australia. They withdrew A\$200 from a bank account the next day, but the account has not been used since. Sydney police have discounted reports that the girls were the latest victims of a bushland serial killer.

The bodies were found 50 yards apart in the Belanglo State Forest near Bowral, New South Wales. One was under a rocky ledge, the other covered with brush. One was found by a man taking part in an orienteering event and the other by police searching the area the following day.

The women arrived in Australia separately last year and began travelling around the country together after meeting in Sydney.

## Danger on the road to adventure

By ALICE THOMSON

EVERY year 200,000 Britons don fluorescent backpacks and go abroad in search of adventure, according to STA, the student travel agency. Like Joanne Walters and Caroline Clarke, these backpackers want to see the world on a budget and have a good time.

Backpacking is seen as one of the few safe highs left. But is it safe? Miss Walters and Miss Clarke are not the first British backpackers to be killed this year. Four Britons were murdered in Angola in January. Susan Kirby, from Doncaster, was shot and wounded in Sydney in May, and Jonathan Farmer was hacked to death as he jogged on Lamu island, Kenya.

Polly Davies, who runs Marco Polo, a travel advisory service for women in Bristol, believes that women can travel safely anywhere if they follow her "three Cs".

Common sense: at home you would not take a short cut through a dark alley or go into a pub in your bikini - do not do it abroad. Carry valuables in a moneybelt and padlock your pack. Have the necessary inoculations and leave an itinerary at home.

Compromise: when abroad, follow local customs. In Kenya, for instance, women do not go into bars alone unless they are prostitutes.

Confidence: if you expect people to grab your money or try to rape you, you will appear nervous and attract more attention.



Norma who? The prime minister's wife shows her security pass to police at the entrance to Downing Street yesterday after officers guarding against imposters slipping into Number 10 failed to recognise her

## Solicitors prepare to fight as fees plan is unveiled

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE long-running dispute between the Lord Chancellor and solicitors over fixed legal aid fees hotted up yesterday with publication of his planned rates of pay for magistrates' courts work.

The rates, produced by management consultants Price Waterhouse, have been provisionally accepted by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, for implementation by the end of the year.

Fixed fees are intended to secure greater control over the growing legal aid bill as well as quicker payment for solicitors.

In the case of guilty pleas, for example, solicitors will be paid £143 in London and £127 outside it for not-guilty pleas. £255 in London and £216 outside it regardless of how much work is done, up to set limits (see table below).

The Law Society said it would oppose the rates "with the utmost vigour", and has called a meeting of local society representatives for October 9.

Chris Over, of the Devon and Exeter law society, said his members would attend the meeting urging strike and that the Lord Chancellor should be taken to judicial review. In his

area, most solicitors pulled out from the duty solicitor scheme from March to September and had re-joined only pending yesterday's proposals.

To what extent solicitors are prepared to fight the proposals is uncertain. Only a few local law societies indicated their willingness over the past few months to take industrial action by withdrawing from local duty solicitor schemes.

The proposal replaces the present system of payment by hourly rates. Instead, solicitors are paid a fixed fee depending on the kind of case. There are

two bands of fee: a lower one for the cheaper 70 per cent of cases and an upper level for the next 20 per cent. The top 10 per cent will be assessed by the Legal Aid Board as now.

Robert Winstanley, of the society's courts and legal services committee, said yesterday that the proposals, while emphasising cost control, did not make it easier for solicitors to represent their clients properly at a time when the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice was concerned about ensuring quality representation for defendants.

Case type and band	Value of work	Standard fee applicable
<b>London</b>		
Summary trial, guilty plea		
0-70%	0-289	143
70-90%	290-523	383
90-100%	524+	assessed
Summary trial, not guilty plea		
0-70%	0-465	255
70-90%	466-827	831
90-100%	828+	assessed
Paper commitments		
0-70%	0-432	240
70-90%	433-575	543
90-100%	576+	assessed
<b>Non-London</b>		
Summary trial, guilty plea		
0-70%	0-231	127
70-90%	232-391	295
90-100%	392+	assessed
Summary trial, not guilty plea		
0-70%	0-393	216
70-90%	394-657	487
90-100%	658+	assessed
Paper commitments		
0-70%	0-344	200
70-90%	345-569	434
90-100%	570+	assessed

## London skimps on its GPs

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S family doctor service is poorer than the rest of the country and is run on the cheap, in sharp contrast to the profitability of the capital's hospital service, according to new research.

Londoners have lower rates of immunisation and cervical screening and are prescribed 10 per cent fewer drugs than elsewhere. If prescribing rates outside the capital were brought down to the London level, the NHS would save £215 million a year.

The capital still has more older, single-handed, poorly supported GPs in inadequate premises than elsewhere, despite more than a decade of effort to remedy deficiencies highlighted in the 1979 Ach-

eson report. A fifth of GPs have patient lists of over 2,500, compared with a national average of a tenth, research by the Kings Fund Institute, an independent think-tank, has found.

The findings show the importance of building up the primary health care service in the capital before hospitals are closed. The Tomlinson enquiry into the future of London health care is expected to recommend the closure or change of use of four teaching hospitals but it is understood to have been asked to tone down its request for a big boost to primary care.

Spending on family health services in London is the same as the national average at

£112 a head, although costs are at least 20 per cent higher and spending on premises is 38 per cent higher. Only half of eligible London women have had a cervical screen in the past five years compared with almost three quarters elsewhere.

Inner London residents receive an average 7.4 prescriptions a head a year, compared with 10 in Birmingham and Liverpool and a national average of 8.1. However, Robert Maxwell, chief executive of the Kings Fund, said the low rate could be a good thing. "I wouldn't want to see extra money pumped into more prescribing but it might give us the opportunity to do other things."

## Baby died after beating opened up old injury

By LIN JENKINS

A PREMATURE baby was murdered by his mother's boyfriend eight days after being allowed home from hospital despite police concern over a fractured skull, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Frederick John Feathers, 20, admitted killing four-month-old Harry Gurney, but denied murdering him on October 31 last year.

John Bevan, for the prosecution, said Mr Feathers and the child's mother, Joanne Gurney, had reason to be careful with the infant since police had obtained a child protection order while he was in hospital. However, after a meeting between interested parties, including social

workers, Harry was allowed home to his mother and her partner.

The child was born in June 1991, seven weeks premature and weighing three pounds. He was admitted to hospital on October 20 with a fractured skull after his mother noticed a lump on his head. Mr Feathers at first claimed the child's two-year-old half-brother had hit him. However, said Mr Bevan, the older child had been in church with his mother and the injury was too severe to be caused by another baby.

Harry was discharged on October 23. A week later his mother ran in a panic to a neighbour asking her to call an ambulance. Another neighbour went into the

flat in Barking, Essex, and saw Harry lying on the draining board as Mr Feathers attempted to give mouth to mouth resuscitation.

Doctors at Newham General Hospital succeeded in resuscitating the baby but he did not survive. A post-mortem examination showed that his brain had bled and swollen, opening up the old fracture.

Mr Feathers told police a vacuum cleaner flex had caught the infant's crib and knocked him the floor. However the jury was told yesterday that he now conceded the injuries were sustained by shaking the baby and throwing him on to a bed.

The hearing continues today.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Snooker star's father guilty of murder

Ronald O'Sullivan, father of the teenage snooker player Ronnie O'Sullivan, was jailed for life yesterday after being convicted at the Old Bailey of stabbing a man to death during a party at a London nightclub. Friends of Bruce Bryan, the victim, cheered as the murder sentence was passed. Opposing factions in the public gallery traded abuse and police were called in to restore order.

O'Sullivan, a book trader of Chigwell, Essex, was also jailed for ten years concurrently for wounding Mr Bryan's brother Kelvin at the time of the murder at Stocks club, Chelsea. He denied both charges. The court was told that O'Sullivan and a fellow book trader had drunk a lot of champagne, were loud and were looking for trouble when the Bryan brothers joined a party of women who were at the club to celebrate a businessman's birthday.

Mr Justice Hobhouse told O'Sullivan: "This was a very unpleasant attack which included elements of racial harassment and quite gratuitous and disproportionate violence. Your conduct was inexcusable. Drink is no excuse for any offence."

### Balloon crew saved

Two Dutch balloonists were rescued by helicopter after ditching in the sea at the end of the first transatlantic balloon race. British balloonists Don Cameron, of Bristol, and Rob Bayly, of London, landed safely on the Portuguese coast to come second, eight hours behind the winning Belgian team, who travelled 2,580 miles in 115 hours. The Dutch, who were trapped in heavy rain clouds and strong winds, were the second team to ditch during the five-balloon race. The Germans were forced down on Saturday after running short of fuel. The Americans, after drifting too far south, were reported 350 miles west of Gibraltar. The race started from Bangor, Maine, last Wednesday.

### Indecency man fined

A man who admitted being naked on Wimbledon Common was fined £200 yesterday. Wimbledon magistrates were told that a woman had seen Colin Stagg, 29, of Roehampton, southwest London, wearing only sunglasses. Graeme Wood, for Stagg, said that the offence had no connection with the murder of Rachel Nickell, who was raped and stabbed to death in July while walking on the common with her two-year-old son. Scotland Yard said that it would take no further action against Stagg. Last week, more than 700 people responded to a police appeal for information after two videotape images of a suspect were shown on the BBC's *Crimewatch UK* programme.

### Clowes appeal fails

The convicted fraudster Peter Clowes failed yesterday to overturn a High Court ruling that he is liable to meet a damages claim by the trade department and must make a £6 million interim payment. The Court of Appeal rejected his claim that the ruling was flawed. Clowes, 49, who is serving a ten-year jail term, was alleged to have cheated investors in the Barlow Clowes investment group of an estimated £113 million. He is to appeal against conviction. The trade department paid investors compensation of £150 million and seeks the return of £19.8 million relating to their losses with Barlow Clowes and Partners before its takeover by the off-shore Barlow Clowes Gift Managers.

### Plea on juvenile crime

Police chiefs are calling on the government to consider a new form of institution similar to the former approved schools to handle the rising number of child criminals. Establishment of a "halfway house" institution offering something in between community-based supervision and full prison will be advocated today at the annual conference of the Police Superintendents' Association, in Blackpool, by Chief Superintendent Edgar Day, the body's president, in a speech to delegates and Kenneth Clarke, home secretary. Yesterday, Mr Day, a Hampshire officer, said that an increase in young offenders, whose ages seemed to be falling, necessitated such institutions for those between 14 and 18.

### MP hit by gun pellets

The Tory MP Sir Nicholas Fairbairn was recovering yesterday after being hit in the eye by pellets as his neighbours were clay-pigeon shooting. Sir Nicholas (right) was bruised and temporarily blinded in one eye. Lady Fairbairn said she and her husband were in the garden of their home, Fordell Castle, near Dunfermline, Fife. "Suddenly the garden was showered and peppered with pellets."



### More BBC cuts feared

Sir Michael Checkland, the BBC's director-general, sought yesterday to allay fears of further job cuts in an interview broadcast to staff on closed-circuit television. The BBC announced 1,250 job losses on Friday. Staff believe that the a scheme allowing programme making to be put out to tender will hit departments. The interview was conducted by John Humphrys. Roger Bolton, of the broadcasting union Bectu, said: "Sir Michael seemed to be inviting Humphrys to share an article of faith with him that his fears were unfounded and that it would be all right on the night."

### Lightning killed umpire

A sportsman recovering from brain injuries was killed by lightning while umpiring a village cricket match, an inquest was told. Seven players were knocked down when lightning struck the ground at Youlgreave, near Bakewell, Derbyshire. As they got to their feet, Peter Hill, 26, remained motionless. Clive Rushton, the High Peak coroner, was told that the accident happened on May 31, five weeks after Mr Hill, an engineer, was concussed during a football match at the same ground. Verdict: accidental death.

## 'The complete cure to male impotence'

By W. Walsh.  
Foreword by Dr. A. Williams.

If your sex drive isn't quite what it used to be - there's no need to worry. These days, most men can lead a healthy, virile sex life right into their seventies and eighties.

But until recently, men's reluctance to discuss the problem plus poor diagnostic procedures meant treatment would frequently fail. Invariably, the man was left to cope with low self-esteem and possibly, a faltering relationship.

The truth is most forms of impotence & premature ejaculation can now be treated successfully. Quickly and simply. The complete cure to male impotence tells you how.

A REVEALING NEW BOOK

Written by W. Walsh in consultation with a team of expert doctors, this new book reveals that many men suffer from impotence at some stage in their life for various reasons.

But how men react to their new-found problem is, perhaps, more significant.

Naturally, you become concerned about your performance, or lack of it, and inevitably, this makes the problem worse. W. Walsh

explains that, very often, all you need is a simple 'kick-start' to give you back your confidence and your virility.

ARE THE CAUSES PSYCHOLOGICAL OR PHYSICAL?

Of course, they can be either, but whatever the reason, this book will show you how stress, guilt, anxiety, diabetes, tiredness, alcohol, depression, serious & minor illness, medically prescribed drugs & disease affect the male libido and how, more importantly, male virility can be restored.

A FREE PUBLICATION

'The complete cure to male impotence' has recently been published by The London Diagnostic Centre to promote a better understanding of how impotence can affect men in today's society and why there is no longer any need for them & their partners to live with the problem. To obtain your free copy in the utmost confidence, please complete the coupon below today.

Please send me my free copy of 'The complete cure to male impotence' in complete confidence. Allow 7-10 days delivery.

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# Lethal injection was betrayal of duty, judge tells doctor

By BILL FROST

DR NIGEL Cox, the hospital consultant found guilty of attempting to murder a terminally ill patient, was sentenced at Winchester Crown Court yesterday to one year's imprisonment, suspended for 12 months.

Mr Justice Ognall told Dr Cox that his conduct in administering a lethal injection to Lillian Boyes had been not only criminal but also a total betrayal of his unequivocal duty as a physician.

The General Medical Council confirmed that the case of Dr Cox would be referred to a preliminary proceedings committee. The committee would decide, possibly as early as next month, whether the consultant should be brought before a full public hearing.

Dr Cox, 47, said at a press conference that he was devastated by the jury's verdict and the suspended prison sentence "for what was a bona fide act that was solely in the interests of Mrs Boyes."

"It seems somewhat harsh to criminalise me for doing my best in what were quite exceptional circumstances. This is not a trial about the general issue of euthanasia, but about a very specific and most unusual set of circumstances."

Dr Cox said his aim was now to get back to as normal a life as possible as quickly as possible. "I cannot yet say what course my career will take but I will be continuing to see my patients if and until there is a hearing by the General Medical Council. Please let us not forget Mrs Boyes, a brave and patient lady, and her family who have



Patrick Boyes: sad at jury's verdict

## Bond forged by pain and trust

Dr Cox's patients sometimes found his manner abrupt, but they came to respect his dedication, writes Bill Frost

AN extraordinary bond had grown between Dr Cox and Mrs Boyes over the years of their association.

He respected her courage and resilience, she appreciated his skill, care and directness. Doctor and patient became linked by affection and mutual regard.

Not all those who came into contact with Dr Cox were so well disposed towards the consultant. Some colleagues spoke of his brusque manner and unwillingness to suffer fools gladly.

The nurse who reported Dr Cox to the authorities after Mrs Boyes's death described him as unapproachable. Fellow rheumatologists, however, regard Dr Cox as a leader in the field, dedicated to easing pain and discovering new methods of treating a disease which caused terrible suffering and left little hope of remission.

Patients also spoke of Dr Cox's sharp manner, but praised his skill and caring attitude.

Peter Cheeseman, forced to retire early after the onset of acute rheumatoid arthritis, said: "He may give the impression of being sharp but it is just a cover. Inside Dr Cox is soft: the brusque approach is a measure of his shyness."

Mr Cheeseman, 55, said Dr Cox had helped him combat "unimaginable pain."

"The disease gives pain, pain and more pain. Dr Cox has made my life more tenable."

"Sometimes the agony is so great you can find nowhere to hide. But somehow he has helped me to manage."

"If I had been like Mrs Boyes, I would have been grateful for a release from the pain. Witnessing her agony would have hurt Dr Cox too."

Jean Winning, a retired registered nurse who suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, also praised Dr Cox. "At first I found his manner abrupt. Then I realised he was a

been obliged to relieve her end by proxy. I hope they will now be allowed to grieve in peace."

Mrs Boyes, who was 70, died at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, in August last year after Dr Cox injected her with potassium chloride when repeated doses of heroin had failed to ease her agony. During the trial, the jury was told that Mrs Boyes, who suffered from acute rheumatoid arthritis complicated by gastric ulcers, gangrene and body sores, was dead within minutes, possibly even seconds of the injection.

Dr Cox had promised to make her last hours as pain-free and dignified as possible. When all analgesics failed, the pressure on the consultant to end the suffering endured by Mrs Boyes became intense, the court was told during the seven-day trial.

Patrick Boyes, 42, the dead woman's son, said yesterday that the family was saddened by the verdict. "My brother John and I both feel that he is an excellent doctor and that he looked after our mother with care and compassion at all times. Mother was a very special and caring person. We are sure that she would have been horrified that her passing had resulted in this trial and the conviction of a doctor whom she respected and considered a friend."

David Scott, a fellow consultant rheumatologist, who supported Dr Cox throughout the trial, yesterday attacked the suspended prison term imposed by the judge. "In passing this obscene sentence, Mr Justice Ognall has probably advanced the cause of euthanasia inadvertently. We believe, despite certain press statements, euthanasia had nothing to do with this case," he said.

Sydney Kentridge, QC, for the defence, urged the judge to give his client an absolute discharge in view of the "exceptional circumstances" of the case. But before passing sentence the judge said that deliberate conduct by a doctor aimed at bringing about the death of a patient required "as a matter of principle to be marked by a term of imprisonment". However, the public interest would not be served by

jailing the consultant immediately so he had decided to suspend the sentence for 12 months.

Mr Justice Ognall described the trial as a testing and melancholy experience for all who had been involved. "And I do not exclude myself."

"From the dock — the most lonely vantage point in the court — there is no doubt that it was a terrible ordeal. The verdict was a personal and professional catastrophe," the judge told Dr Cox.

The jury had convicted the consultant on what Mr Justice Ognall described as "the most clear and compelling evidence". The consultant had allowed his distress over the suffering endured by Mrs Boyes in her last hours to overcome his professional duty. "Such conduct can never be legally excused. However, sometimes it can be explained," the judge said.

Doctor sentenced, page 1



Honeymoon tragedy: Carol, 19, and Raoul German, 31, who died in a helicopter crash in Hawaii last week, five days after their wedding. Mrs German, formerly Carol Shawcroft, from Southport, Merseyside, was married last week in Los Angeles. She and her Mexican husband were among seven people killed when a helicopter on a trip to Maui ran into poor visibility and crashed into the extinct volcano Haleakala

## Specialist criticised at inquest

A GYNAECOLOGIST was accused yesterday of using "a wholly inappropriate" procedure on a patient who died after surgery at a private hospital (Allison Roberts writes).

An inquest at St Pancras coroner's court, London, into the death of Rose Silverman, 49, heard Albert Singer defend use of fibre optic tubes in a second operation after a hysterectomy he had performed at the Portland Hospital, central London, had caused complications.

Simon Taylor, for Mrs Silverman's widow, suggested in cross-examination that the blood-poisoning that killed her arose from her bowel being punctured by surgical instruments that should not have been used. Michael Silverman said that a lack of equipment had forced doctors to move his wife to University College Hospital.

Dr Singer, who also has a health service practice at the Whittington Hospital, north London, said that he and his colleagues were sure their instruments had not punctured the bowel. The patient had not wanted further major surgery. The hearing will continue later this week.

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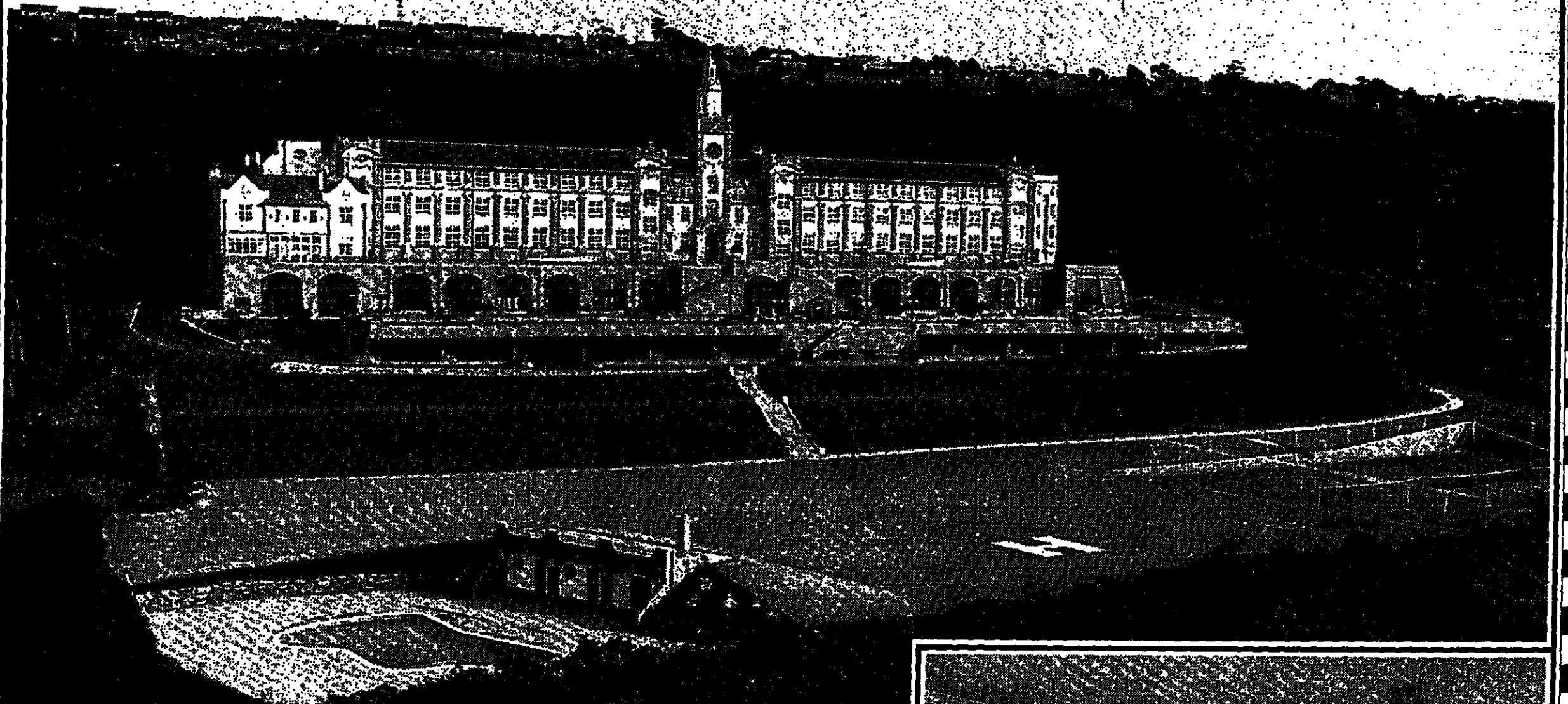


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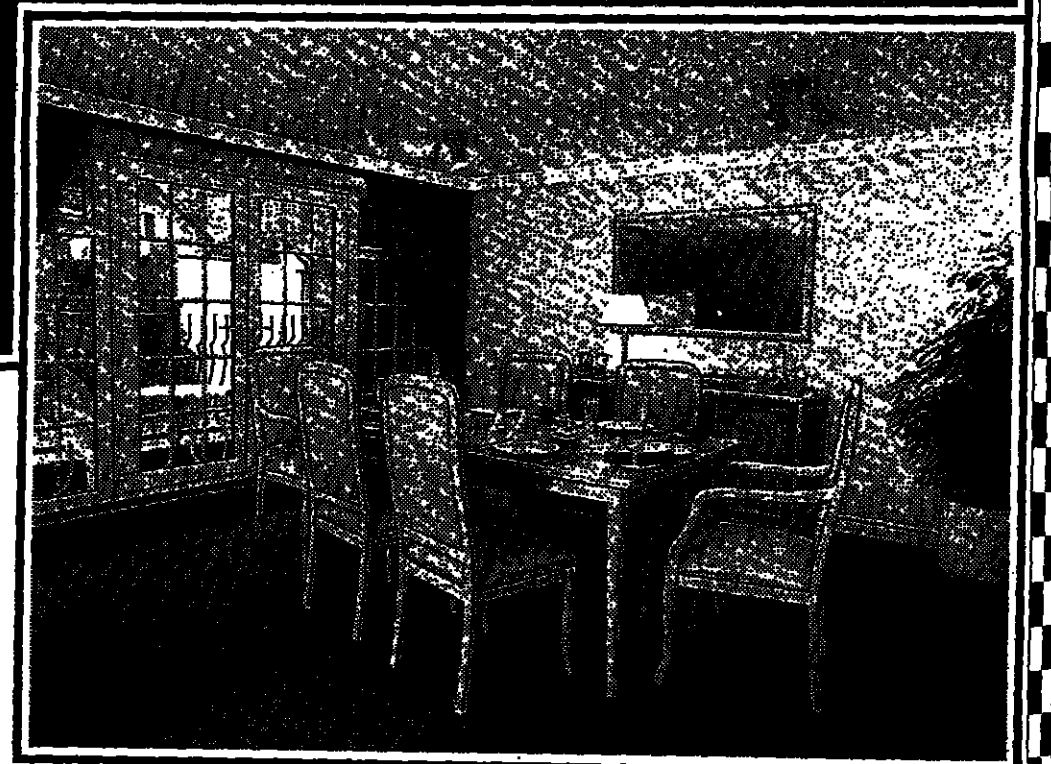
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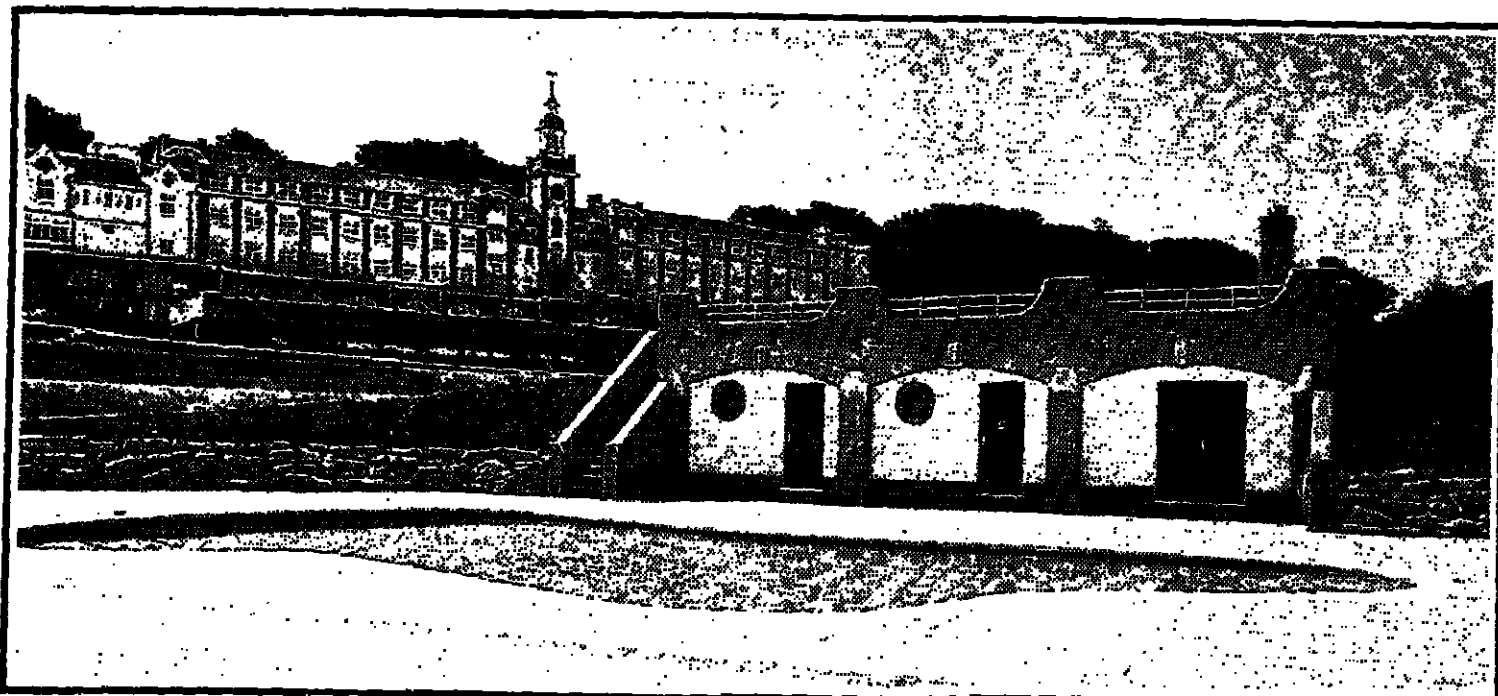
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# Libel lawyer accuses Carman of presenting music-hall comedy



Hartley: attacked "smear tactics"

By TIM JONES

GEORGE Carman, QC, one of Britain's leading libel lawyers, was accused yesterday of being "cruel and cowardly" and of behaving like a stand-up comic in a music hall act.

His adversary, Richard Hartley, QC, used his closing speech in the libel action brought by Mona Bauwens, against *The People*, to tell the jury that Mr Carman had been "stage-manager, producer and lead actor" in the action. David Mellor, the hereditary secretary, has been drawn into the case. It was, Mr Hartley said, "a bit rich" for Mr Carman to suggest that Mr Mellor had engaged in a public relations exercise, by getting his wife to attend the court, when he was a ringmaster. Mrs Bauwens, whose father is a member of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and chairman of its money-raising arm, is suing *The People* and its publishers for suggesting that a story printed in an issue two years ago meant that she was not a fit person to be associated with. During the trial,

now in its sixth day, the jury has heard that Mrs Bauwens paid for a holiday in Marbella for Mr Mellor and his family which began one day before Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Throughout the trial, Mr Carman has said that the article was meant to question the political judgment of Mr Mellor in taking a holiday with Mrs Bauwens at a time when he should plainly have been seen to be dissociating himself from an organisation that supported President Saddam Hussein. Mr Hartley accused Mr Carman of subjecting his client to a "verbal mugging" in a deliberate plan that led to her being "crucified" in the media. Mr Hartley said: "This attack was 'both cruel and cowardly'. At no time did he spare her feelings. No stick was too small to beat her with."

leopard. None of these matters related to anything in this action... It is cowardly because he was prepared to wound but afraid to strike. Lots of innuendoes were left hanging in the air.

"Mr Carman is the past master of the wink, nudge, nudge. It is classic smear tactics in the hope that if you go on long enough something will stick." He added: "Mr Carman had a loaded gun, he knew it would go off. He intended it to go off, and it did go off, and he hoped it would destroy her reputation. It is a verbal mugging you are entitled to take into account when assessing damages." Mr Hartley said that Mrs Mellor had turned up in court to support her friend. "If she had not been there you might have said she was conspicuous by her absence."

was editor of *The People* at the time and who is now editor of the *Daily Mirror*, had "kicked her when she was down" and never apologised. "They have dragged her through the dirt."

After telling the jurors to remember that they were in a court and not a theatre, Mr Hartley said: "I did not think Mr Carman would be doing a music-hall turn as a stand-up comic, telling you a rather sexist joke about Betty Braddock and painting a rather crude picture of David Mellor burying his head in the sand like an ostrich and exposing his private parts. It is all good knock-about stuff that had them rocking in the aisles... But I am not going to follow him down that path."



Carman: a "ringmaster" in court

'He was prepared to wound but afraid to strike'

'They have dragged her through the dirt'

## Cash shortage 'stops pupils taking home textbooks to study'

By RAY CLANCY

BRITISH schools are so short of funds that they cannot afford basic books and end up photocopying extracts, an independent report published yesterday says.

The report, from the Book Trust, said there was a shortage of professional school librarians in England and Wales and that a "book-starved" generation was emerging because few pupils read complete books.

Michael Marland, head of North Westminster Community School and chairman of the report working party, said: "Fewer children are taking fewer books home. That deprives them of the ability to go

over and understand what they have been studying in the classroom." At a press conference in London, he said he had been unable to provide a £13.99 science book for the school library because of lack of funds, and he had been appalled because he could not give each pupil studying *Hamlet* a copy of the play to take home.

The report suggested that photocopying had reached unprecedented levels and had become "an inferior and expensive substitute for having and using the book itself". Mr Marland said a 13-year-old had stopped him and asked why pupils were given bits of

books typed on coloured paper instead of the real thing.

The report was critical of the amount spent on books. It said primary schools spent £9 a child in England, £7.45 in Scotland and £7.60 in Wales when the minimum should be £15.27 and, ideally, £18.39. Secondary schools spent £13.50 a child in England and £13.56 in Scotland and Wales; the report recommended £24.97 and, ideally, £28.97.

The report welcomed advances in the national curriculum and local management that gave teachers the ability to decide which books to buy, but said the workload meant they frequently did not have the time to decide which books were best.

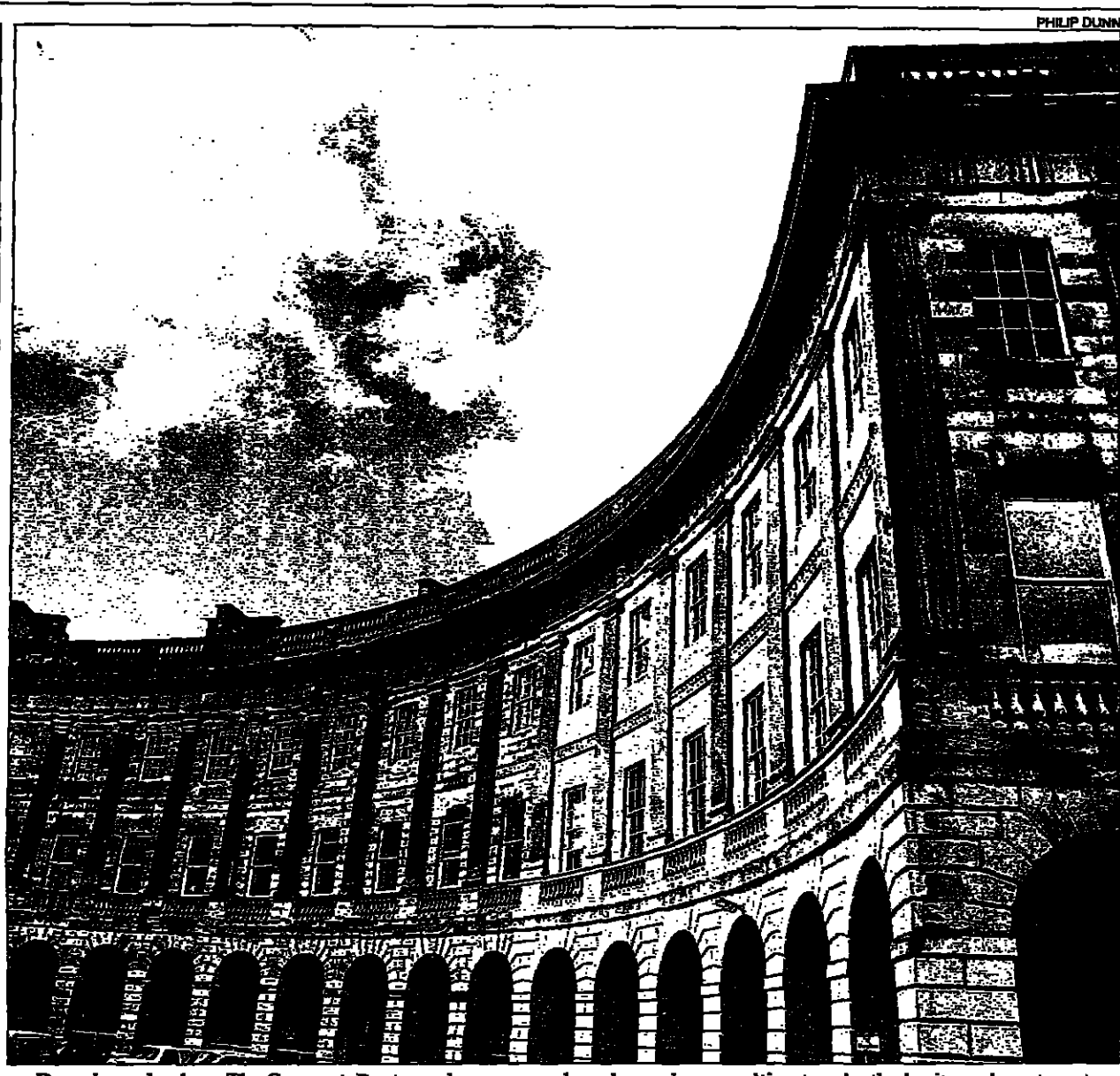
The education department said: "Spending on books and equipment rose by 38 per cent in real terms from 1980 to 1990. We have provided an extra £15 million to buy books for the new curriculum."

Mr Marland said the education department lumped books and equipment under one budget. Schools had to spend large amounts on computers and information technology and had less for books. □ The Book Trust may well be dismayed to learn that five books have been banned from a Scottish school after they were deemed obscene (Kerry Gill writes).

The books removed from an approved reading list for pupils taking Higher English include *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, *The Chancer* and *A Greyhound for Breakfast* by James Kelman. *Perfume*, a collection of short stories by Patrick Suskind, and *Cider House Rules* by John Irving.

All were removed from the library of Johnstone High School, near Paisley, after complaints were made by Robert Bonnar, a member of the school board. Mr Bonnar, a former teacher, denied that the ban was a form of censorship and said the books were simply not suitable.

*Books in Schools* (Book Trust, Book House, 45 East Hill, London SW18 2QZ; £4.95)



Decaying splendour: The Crescent, Buxton, whose owners have been given an ultimatum by the heritage department

## Minister comes to rescue of crescent

The national heritage department has vowed to save a Georgian relic from further damage, Marcus Binney writes

ROBERT Key, the national heritage minister, has intervened to save a Georgian street in Buxton, Derbyshire, from continuing decay. The owners, Capitalise, have been given ten days to put forward a satisfactory programme and timetable for repairs to The Crescent, a grade one listed structure.

Mr Key said yesterday: "If firm proposals are not received by English Heritage by the end of September, we will consider serving a full repairs notice, followed up if necessary by a compulsory purchase order. The repairs notice would not simply specify emergency protection measures but full permanent repairs to roof, stonework and interiors, at a probable cost of £1 million."

"It is a very important

building in a gem of a town. This is a firm statement of intent from the new Department of National Heritage and a precedent for future action," Mr Key said.

The Crescent was built for the 5th Duke of Devonshire by the architect John Carr of York as lodgings for visitors for the new spa he was developing. It began to deteriorate badly after St Ann's Hotel, which occupied the major part of the buildings, was closed in 1989 as a result of hygiene notices served by High Peak Borough Council. Subsequently, the county

council closed the public library that occupied the former assembly rooms at the end of The Crescent, after concern about the floor loadings.

Gales in 1990 ripped gaping holes in the hotel roof and the district council, realising that winter rain could spell disaster for the interior, sent in builders to take off the slates and secure protective sheeting directly on to the rafters.

Crown Hotels accepted an offer from a specialist in rescuing country houses, but then rejected that in favour of another offer from a newly formed company, the Derby-

shire Trust, which failed to raise the necessary funds. This summer the whole crescent has been fenced off after concern about falling masonry, leaving Buxton with an eyesore.

A council officer said: "As soon as the windows were boarded up to prevent vandalism, enormous dry rot fruiting bodies developed, the biggest I have ever seen."

The Bank of Egypt, the mortgagees, sold St Ann's last month to a newly formed company, Capitalise, which had no definite plans apart from a general intention to explore reopening the hotel. Crown Hotels paid an estimated £750,000 for St Ann's Hotel in 1986, but in its present state the district value might be as little as a nil value.

## Redwood acclaims new tax

By DOUGLAS BROOM  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Redwood, the local government minister, launched a counter attack on critics of the council tax, accusing them of attempting to hide the facts from the public.

Addressing council taxation officers yesterday at their annual gathering in Eastbourne, East Sussex, Mr Redwood condemned "pointless and premature" speculation about the level of charges. Council tax will replace the community charge next April, and some commentators have suggested that the system will be bogged down by valuation appeals and that bills will average more than £600.

Ministers initially issued figures showing an average household bill of £400 based on 1991 council spending levels, but Mr Redwood has refused to predict the likely levy. "Predictably, there has been much pointless and premature speculation on next year's council tax levels. But we must not let this prevent us from presenting the facts to the public," he said.

Bureaucracy would be reduced, with one bill per property instead of personal poll tax bills for every adult. Seven million people living alone would be entitled to an automatic 25 per cent discount while grouping properties into tax bands according to market value would take account of ability to pay. Students, student nurses, people on income support and youth training students would all be exempt.

Jack Straw, Labour's chief environment spokesman, said most people who knew anything about the new tax would not believe the minister's assertions. "John Redwood's claims about the simplicity and fairness of the council tax are about as convincing as John Major's promises not to devalue the pound," he said.

## Hotel rises to club's tall order

By KERRY GILL

APART from the possibility of a trial with the Harlem Globetrotters there is not much going for very tall people. They hang their heads on door frames, struggle to buy clothes that fit, find their feet sticking out from under bed covers and are forced to put up with boring remarks such as "is it cold up there?"

But, as every minority group eventually discovers, there is strength in numbers. Thus the Tall Persons Club of Great Britain was founded and next month its members will celebrate its first anniversary at a hotel in Perth.

Just finding a suitable hotel was difficult enough. Okay, the chandeliers at The Ritz may be high enough to avoid damaged skulls, but that could be rather pricey.

Kate Edwards, six feet, one of the club's co-ordinators, said: "We questioned several hotels about the height of showerheads, the inside dimensions of lifts, the headroom in doors and, most importantly, the length of beds. We also had to know whether there were any low-hanging chandeliers, which are not good news for us."

The club settled on the Salutation Hotel. A venue in Scotland was considered a must since club members wanted to hold a ceilidh and enjoy some Highland reels. The club was formed to provide tall people with moral support and advice and to arrange social functions. To qualify for membership, men must be at least 6ft 3in and women 5ft 10in.

Ms Edwards, of Aberdeen, said: "Far from feeling lanky and superior, tall people are often self-conscious and depressed about their great height. They get stared at a lot. As one of our members says, 'it's like being famous without the money.' And very cold too."

## Victorious Fischer surges ahead

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

BOBBY Fischer achieved an outstanding victory in game 11 of his match against Boris Spassky, giving him a commanding lead of five wins to two.

The game, in which Fischer played white, will undoubtedly go down as one of his greatest attacking performances. Grandmasters watching the match at the island resort of Sveti Stefan, Montenegro, showered him with praise. Many said that it was by far the best game, with perfect play by Fischer.

One grandmaster, Peter Popovic, dismissed speculation that the American might have lost his strength after 20 years away from the board, saying: "Fischer is really Fischer again now."

Spassky had rallied during game 10, holding Fischer to a draw after three consecutive defeats. In game 11, Fischer regained his brilliant form to win in 41 moves after 5 hours and 41 minutes of play.

The opening was a Sicilian

defence, a line dating back to the fifteenth century. But Fischer's seventh move introduced a novel gambit of a pawn. Spassky defended incautiously on the 13th move, developing a bishop when he should have moved his knight, but the punishment that Fischer meted out for the small error was hard to foresee. Fischer's 15th move was a bombshell, launching a knight into the heart of the black position.

In the final stages, with the advantage of rook against bishop, Fischer's technique

was merciless. On the 39th move, he sacrificed his rook for Spassky's last dangerous pawn. When Spassky resigned, although he was briefly a bishop ahead, Fischer's pawns would soon have been triumphant.

The next game is scheduled for Saturday in Belgrade, where the rest of the games will be played. The winner will be the first player to accumulate ten victories.

White Black  
1 0-0 c5 22 exd5+ Bx6  
2 Nf3 Nc6 23 R4 R6  
3 Bb5 g6 24 f3 R2  
4 Bxc6 Bxc6 25 e6 B6  
5 0-0 Bg7 26 Re1 R1  
6 Re1 c6 27 Rxc1 K6  
7 B4 cxb4 28 Rd1+ K5  
8 a3 c5 29 e7 a5  
9 exd4 cxb4 30 Re1 B7  
10 g4 d4 31 Rxc3 K4  
11 Bb2 B7 32 Rxc3 B3  
12 Nxd4 Qd7 33 Rf7 B6  
13 Nd2 Bb7 34 Rf7 K5  
14 Nf4 Nf6 35 Kf2 B2  
15 Nf5 Bb2 36 Kf3 B7  
16 Nf6+ 37 g4 K2  
17 Nf7 Qd1 38 Kd4 B1-Q  
18 Rxc7 Kd7 39 Rf1 Kd1  
20 Nf5+ Rb6 40 Kc3 K2  
21 Nf5+ g5 Black resigns

The final position

## Desperately seeking industrial sponsors

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS whose government grant applications are rejected will be given a chance to raise the money from industry through a new series of "lonely hearts" bulletins.

The bulletins will list those projects given the highest rating by the Science and Engineering Research Council but denied funding because there is not enough money. In some fields, 80 per cent of such projects cannot be supported.

The bulletins are to be published twice a year by Oakland Consultancy, of Cambridge, with financial help from Norway's largest industrial company, Norsk Hydro. At their launch yesterday, Sir Mark Richmond, chairman of the research council, said that the rejected projects were all high-class proposals.

The projects listed in the first bulletin, on chemistry and

process engineering, lack the inimitable style of entries in other match-making publications. None begins: "Male scientist, 28, animal-lover, outgoing and good sense of humour, fond of classical music, seeks industrial sponsor for mutual enjoyment, possible long-term relationship."

But among the almost 150 projects there are some irresistible propositions. A chemist at the University of Edinburgh wants to develop unusual heteroboranes, while a Leeds researcher seeks support to study the surface-induced organisation of disclike amphiphiles.

Michael Zeitlyn, of Oakland Consultancy, hopes that the bulletins will quicken pulses in corporate research departments. "To begin with we are giving them away but in due course will start charging a subscription of £99 for biannual bulletins," he said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mother, 17 smothered her baby

A teenage mother ignored her five-month-old daughter's cries as she smothered her, secretly watched by police and hospital staff, Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday.

A surveillance operation was set up when the baby was transferred to a London hospital after doctors in Middlesbrough, Cleveland, could find nothing medically wrong with the child and suspected her mother of causing the breathing problems.

Psychiatrists told the court that the woman, who admitted cruelty, had a mental problem. Judge Marcus Arwell-Davies, QC, placed her on probation for two years, saying that although the offences were "horrible" it was to her credit that she had owned up. The child is in care.

### Parrot charge

A company director accused of strangling his neighbour's £1,000 parrot was remanded on bail at Oxford Crown Court. Mark Leach, 43, of Oxford, and his wife Dolores, 44, also given bail, were charged with assaulting Paddy Williams, a polytechnic lecturer, and damaging his fence and aviary.

### Girl found

Caroline Courtland-Smith, 13, of St Leonards, East Sussex, who vanished from an amusement arcade at Hastings after an argument with her mother on Saturday night, was reunited with her parents yesterday after police found her wandering the streets in central London.

### PC remanded

PC William Catmore, 47, of Canvey Island, Essex, was remanded on bail by Chelmsford magistrates charged with indecently assaulting three girls under 16 at Braintree between May 6, 1982 and August 15, 1985.

### New Aids cases

There were 153 new Aids cases reported in Britain during August, bringing the total since reporting began in 1982 to 6,431, of which 3,991 are known to have died, the Public Health Laboratory Service said.

### Talk is cheap

A scheme aimed at encouraging people to save legal costs by using mediation to settle disputes out of court will be launched this week by the CBI-backed Centre for Dispute Resolution.

### Abseiler killed

A 45-year-old man fell 40ft to his death when his safety harness slipped as he abseiled down a crag near Leek, Staffordshire, on Sunday, police said yesterday.

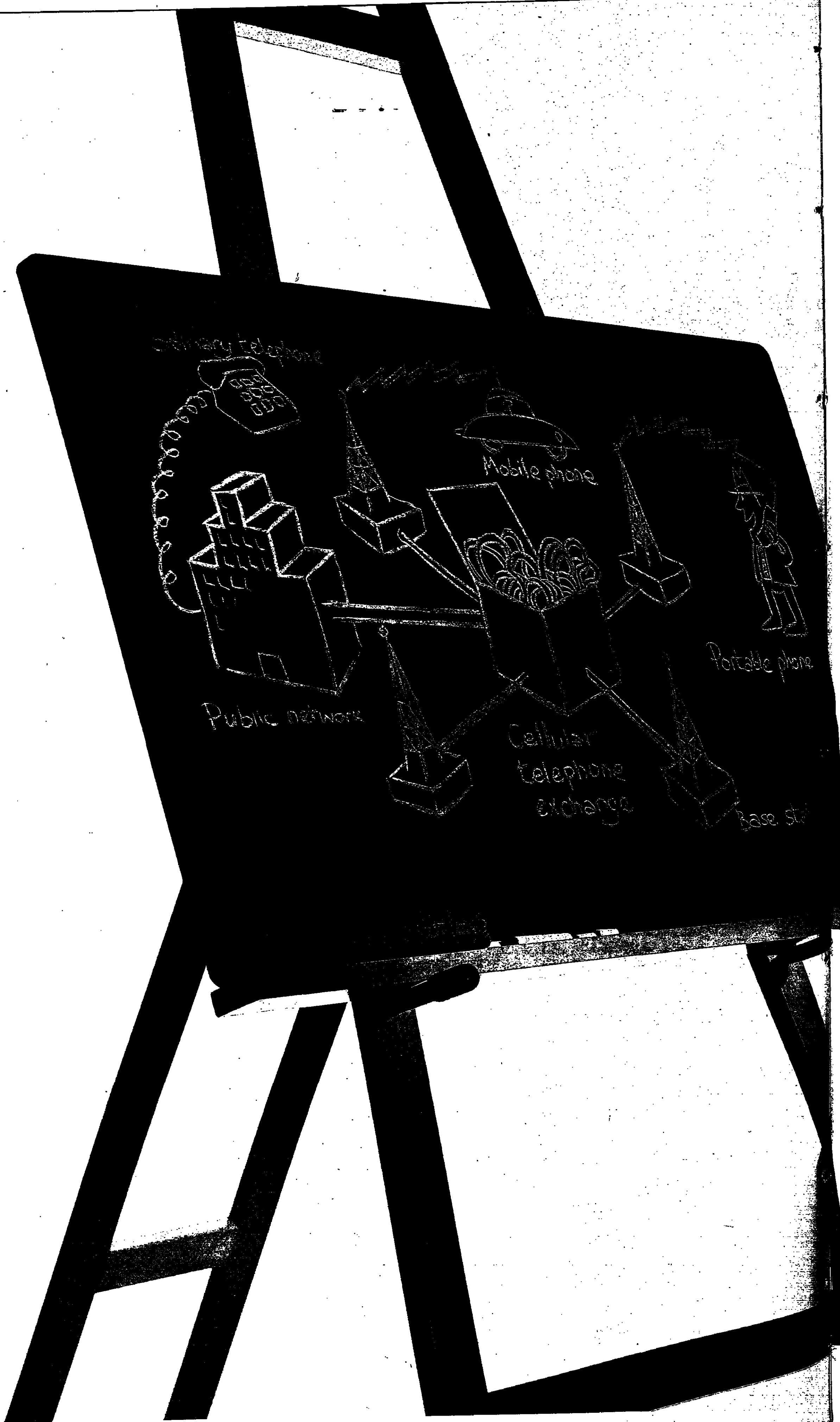
### Channel swim

Haydn Welch, 34, a jeweller, of Taunton, Somerset, dodged a tanker and floating logs to swim 26 miles across the English Channel from Dover to France in 13 hours 42 seconds at the weekend.

## CORRECTION

Two women bank staff who were abducted and robbed (report, September 19) were employees of the Royal Bank of Scotland, not the Bank of Scotland.





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## Serb women force retreat of relief convoy to Muslims

By TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A UNITED Nations aid convoy in Bosnia has been prevented from reaching its destination by protesting Serb women and children. The 18-lorry convoy made two attempts to reach the area of Srebrenica at the weekend but 150 Serb protesters blocked the road shouting: "No food for the Muslim killers of our sons and husbands."

The convoy, escorted by French troops, was turned back as reports of fighting and alleged massacres indicated that Serb forces are on the defensive in several parts of Bosnia.

In another incident, Edip Sadioglu, a Briton, was among seven foreign Muslims who died when their aid convoy was hit by a shell in the Croat-controlled town of Mostar. It is believed that the seven were killed last Thursday.

The peace conference in Geneva on the Yugoslav civil war began sealing down yesterday and exasperated mediators told Bosnia's warring factions to stop fighting if they want to make progress in the talks. Leaders of the three

main factions — Radovan Karadzic, for the Serbs, Haris Silajdzic, for the Muslims, and Mate Boban, for the minority Croats — were due to depart, leaving lower-ranking negotiators to continue the talks.

Late in the day, the Muslim-led Bosnian government proposed a new constitutional framework for Bosnia-Herzegovina, which would preserve it as a single state but decentralise some powers to constituent regions. Mr Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister, presented the proposal calling for the republic to be a "democratic, secular and decentralised state" with equal rights for all its peoples.

Earlier, the two co-chairmen of the conference, Cyrus Vance of the UN and Lord Owen of the European Community, told the three factions that unless restraint were shown, "we are not going to have the climate... to make substantive progress on items like constitutional issues". Mr Vance and Lord Owen fly to Greece today for talks with Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister.

Elsewhere in the former

Yugoslavia, five French UN peacekeeping soldiers in Croatia were slightly injured when an anti-personnel mine exploded. The incident happened while the soldiers were on a mine-clearing mission near the town of Zadar.

The disrupted aid convoy to Srebrenica, 50 miles north-east of Sarajevo, was organised after persistent reports that local Serbs had failed to crush resistance by some 40,000 people in the Muslim enclave. Larry Hollingworth, the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees who accompanied the convoy, said that it had been threatened and harassed.

Mr Hollingworth said: "There was a car overturned in the street and a crowd of women and children blocked our route. Many said they had lost husbands and sons in the fighting and they would not let us through." He added that the demonstration had been organised. "Either the Serbs gave their word [about free passage] and broke it... or the civil authorities in the area are not obeying their central authority."

The incident is an indication of the problems the new 6,000-strong UN force for Bosnia will face once it is in place and has begun escorting humanitarian aid.

UN sources said it was not known exactly what was happening in Srebrenica, but it was believed to be under siege. Disclosure that there is a sizeable pocket of resistance to Serb rule in eastern Bosnia confirms that the Serb military position in the area is either far less secure than previously believed, or is actually deteriorating.

Bosnian forces from Gorazde, which was a besieged town but is now an apparently expanding enclave, are pushing towards nearby Rogatica. The Belgrade news agency, Tanjug, reported yesterday that a further 1,500 Serbs were now in flight from the area.

Fighting was also reported around Doboj, Gradacac and Bosanski Brod along Bosnia's strategic northern corridor. The Serbs must hold this in order to maintain a territorial link between northern Bosnia, Serb-held territories in Croatia, and Serbia itself.



Silajdzic: proposed new Bosnian constitution

## America offers to train army of UN peacekeepers

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

PRESIDENT Bush announced moves yesterday to bolster United Nations peacekeeping and humanitarian operations by providing special training to American troops and forces from other countries.

In what could be his last address to the world body, where he once served as US ambassador, Mr Bush said the US military would start teaching peacekeeping to all new recruits and would make US bases available to other countries for joint peacekeeping training and exercises.

He specifically mentioned the US army base at Fort Dix, New Jersey, which lies within easy reach of UN headquarters in New York. "From Cyprus to Lebanon, to Cambodia and Croatia, the blue beret has become a symbol of hope," he told the 179-nation General Assembly. "As much as the United Nations has done, it can do much more."

Mr Bush's initiative was intended as a gesture of support for the reforms proposed by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, in his recent "Agenda for Peace", a report commissioned by the special session of the security council in January. But Mr Bush did not commit the United States to earmarking troops to serve in a UN army with the task of peace-enforcement, rather than peacekeeping, as Mr Boutros Ghali asked. He also made no specific promise of material support to the United Nations.

Instead, Mr Bush called for another special session of the security council to discuss Mr Boutros Ghali's far-reaching proposals, many of which he seemed to endorse in principle. Calling on UN members to take "bold steps", he said nations should develop and train military units for possible peacekeeping operations and humanitarian relief.

"These forces should be available at short notice at the request of the security council," he said, adding that these standby troops should train together and co-ordinate planning, command and control.

Emphasising the need for "adequate logistical support"

for UN missions, Mr Bush endorsed the idea of stockpiling aid and equipment to prevent harmful delays in the start-up of humanitarian operations. He also promised that the United States, which owes \$209 billion (£120 million) in unpaid UN peacekeeping bills, would explore new ways to ensure that Washington meets its obligations, but he made no explicit reference to Mr Boutros Ghali's suggestion that peacekeeping payments come from national defence budgets. "The United States is ready to do its part to strengthen world peace by strengthening international peacekeeping," he said.

Mr Bush also addressed the problem of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the need to foster global economic prosperity. He proposed that the United Nations Security Council, which he said had become the key forum for preventing weapons proliferation, give new assurances to non-nuclear countries which might be threatened by a nuclear power.

And in his only mention of Iraq, which has turned into an election liability rather than an asset, he praised the work of the UN weapons inspectors involved in dismantling Baghdad's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons capability and ballistic missiles. Mr Bush also emphasised the economic interdependence of the world, called for an early conclusion to the Gatt trade talks, and criticised "insular" economic policies.

He threw his weight behind European economic integration, but said how it was achieved was up to the Europeans.

● New York: Milan Panic, the prime minister of rump Yugoslavia, caught in a crossfire between Serb nationalists and the world community, arrived in New York yesterday to plead his country's case at the United Nations. The security council has recommended that it be barred from the UN General Assembly.

"I want the world body to understand Yugoslavia's position on the issue we are accused of," he said. (Reuters)



Point taken: President Yeltsin joking with Nursultan Nazarbayev, his Kazakhstan counterpart, during a tennis match in Moscow yesterday. The leaders discussed the development of special relations between their two countries before a visit to Germany by Mr Nazarbayev

## Missiles pound Karabakh city

ARMENIANS feel a trace of irritation when the world is convulsed with horror over attacks on bread queues in Sarajevo.

Gohar, a 17-year-old girl who speaks in whispers, was among several dozen people returning from an unsuccessful wait outside a bakery in Stepanakert when a missile fell in front of them. Most of the 26 people who were killed were refugees, like Gohar.

She and her mother had fled in mid-June from their northern Karabakh village after it was laid waste by Azerbaijani tanks. Along with thousands of others, they took "refuge" in the supposed safety of Stepanakert, the capital of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave in Azerbaijan whose ethnic Armenian majority is battling to secede.

Shrapnel pierced one of Gohar's lungs, and against the odds she recovered from a six-hour operation. The buildings adjacent to the hospital then came under aerial bombardment. But Gohar was too weak to be moved to a basement. The psychological strain worsened her condition and she had to be flown, unconscious, to Yerevan, the Armenian capital, where she is now slowly improving.

Azerbaijan's incessant bombing of Nagorno-Karabakh is driving Armenian civilians from the enclave, Bruce Clark writes from Yerevan

But after barely ten weeks of calm, secured by Armenia's military successes in mid-May, the citizens of Nagorno-Karabakh are again being subjected to missile attacks. Last month, the town of Stepanakert, home to about 30,000 people, faced renewed terror of a level unseen in the conflicts unleashed by the collapse of the former Soviet Union. Fighter aircraft, newly acquired by Azerbaijan, rained down high explosives capable of flattening a five-storey building and anti-personnel cluster bombs designed to kill and maim. This month, after at least three aircraft were shot down, the aerial bombing has given way to incessant pounding from long-range field guns, which claim several lives and cause dozens of injuries every night.

In the past 48 hours, there has been fierce fighting over the Lachin corridor, a vital strip of Azerbaijani territory seized by Armenia in May to link Karabakh and Armenia.



If the corridor is cut, Nagorno-Karabakh will face another cold and hungry winter.

Yesterday, as Armenia celebrated its first year of independence, the mood in Yerevan was one of sullen preoccupation with war and economics. Living standards have fallen and the conflict with Azerbaijan and the internal strife in neighbouring Georgia have combined to deprive the state of vital supplies of gas and grain. Fears are growing over how the capital will survive the harsh winter.

On Sunday, Azerbaijani planes renewed the bombard-

ment of Stepanakert, killing seven people. Long-range artillery continued to pound the city. Ethnic Armenian fighters claimed that in the past few days they had destroyed 20 Azerbaijani tanks and killed hundreds of teenage Azerbaijani conscripts. But they said that Azerbaijani still had several hundred tanks and hundreds of thousands of troops.

The conflict between the two countries is now entering the "ethnic cleansing" phase as Azerbaijan, which regards the enclave as its inalienable territory, tries to punish the Armenians fighting for its secession. In Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, pressure is growing to expel all remaining Armenians — completing the population exchange that began in 1988 when about 200,000 members of each community moved or fled to their separate homelands.

Officially, authorities in Baku claim that the bombing of Karabakh is primarily directed at military targets. "The settlement of civilians near such facilities is of a deliberate nature," an official Azerbaijani communiqué states.

But both sides are aware that the objective of the bombardment is to drive Armenian civilians out of the war zone. At the height of the Azerbaijani air raids on Stepanakert, several husbands of women and children departed the enclave, news of which was reported triumphantly by the Baku media, and with dismay in Yerevan.

The warring sides realise that the Armenian cause in Karabakh could be lost unless some civilian families continue to live there. Social and community life cannot continue unless women are there to cook, gather water, help with the harvest and provide succour. The absence of non-combatants, too, could encourage Azerbaijan to ignore any self-restraint and pound Stepanakert to rubble. Karabakh's civilians, however ineffective a force they may be, provide a sort of human shield in this dirty war.

## Nationalist advance in Estonia

Tallinn: Elections at the weekend in Estonia have produced an inconclusive result which is likely to lead to a weak and divided government (Anatoli Lieven writes). The strong showing of an extreme nationalist party will be seen as threatening by the 39 per cent Russian-speaking minority, most of whom are disenfranchised as immigrants.

According to provisional results, the largest single group in parliament will be the centre-right Fatherland alliance with 28 of the 100 seats. No coalition can be formed without it.

Submarine fear Stockholm: Swedish coast-

guards fired depth charges off Landsort, on the east coast, for the second time in a week. Microphones picked up signals "which could indicate submarine activity". (Reuters)

Vodka cocktail

Prague: At least 25 per cent of Russian Stolichnaya vodka sold in Czechoslovakia is contaminated with dibutylphthalate, a chemical used as an insect repellent, and authorities have ordered the withdrawal of stocks. (Reuters)

Retrial sought

Stockholm: Sweden is seeking a retrial for three Swedish engineers sentenced to seven years in jail for illegally entering Iraq. Sweden insists the three, working for a telephone firm in Kuwait, wandered into Iraq by mistake. (Reuters)

Change of gear

Moscow: Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, is the latest victim of a wave of car thefts here. His limousine, part of his retirement package, was stolen outside the Gorbachev Foundation.

## Jews to seek coalition against neo-Nazis

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN BERLIN

AS THE new head of Germany's Jewish community pledged to build a broad coalition against the spreading neo-Nazi violence, international Jewish leaders meeting in Berlin yesterday called for a more coordinated response to the rapid increase in right-wing extremism.

Racist attitudes are increasingly widespread, but the political response is inadequate, said Antony Lerman, director of the London-based Institute of Jewish Affairs. "The world has been turned upside down

and the search is on for scapegoats... politicians may quote their public statements of condemnation [of racism] in defence, but the will of appeasement is in the air, the readiness to accommodate racist views is present in political life across the continent."

The Jewish communal leaders and academics, meeting in Berlin for a three-day conference on anti-Semitism in Europe, gathered as Ignatz Bubis, the newly elected chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said that he

would campaign hard against the neo-Nazis. He declared: "I will make contact with churches, labour unions and political parties to discuss right-wing violence against asylum-seekers and come up with energetic action."

Herr Bubis, 65, spoke after being elected to succeed Heinz Galinski, who died in July. Mr Lerman said that developments in post-communist countries were especially worrying, with racist violence reaching ed unprecendented levels in postwar Germany. But there was a need to be

wary of glib comparisons between what was happening now and Weimar Germany, between the current neo-fascists and the Nazi party.

But whatever the differences, there is no remorse among the current right-wing extremists for the Holocaust. In Berlin, a bomb attack damaged the city's Holocaust memorial and gravesites in Jewish cemeteries have been desecrated. Police in the Baltic city of Wismar said yesterday they had arrested four right-wing extremists during attacks on a refugee shelter.

## Russian women ignore their babushkas for a slim chance

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

TIME was when Soviet womanhood stood out defiantly against the Western dictatorship equating desirability with slenderness. Grandmothers would stroke the cheeks of willowy young girls, inform them that they were as thin as death, and then ply them with sour cream, potatoes and sugary goodies until plump vitality was achieved.

The advent of Western advertisements and clothing has rapidly changed that. The image of beauty is one of the most radical alterations in the new Russia as women strive to emulate foreign role

models and fit into imported fashions.

As hemlines descend in Milan and London, they rise here. The underground is full of Lycra mini-skirts stretched as tight as tent canvas over large posteriors. I glimpsed three women studying diet charts and one trying to decipher the instructions on a German meal-replacement pack.

The women's magazine *Rabotnitsa* (Female Worker), which sells 12 million copies across the Commonwealth of Independent States, has latched on to the trend, inviting readers to write in with their slimming cures and preparing to elect its

champion slimmer of the year. The prize is a refrigerator. Alla Krasinskaya, the magazine's home editor, said that one of the main problems for Russian slimmers is acquiring and storing fresh, non-fattening foods.

The cures offered are mainly draconian starvation diets, often coupled with exaggerated claims of success. One 13-year-old girl from Chelyabinsk, in the Urals, wrote: "I lost 20kg (44lb) in a month. I didn't eat for the first three days and then I drank juice and ate porridge only — easy!" An earnest correspondent from St Petersburg recommended an apple diet consisting of one apple for

breakfast, two for lunch and three for dinner.



Nelli P., from Uzbekistan, informed magazine readers that women in her republic drink their own urine. "It

keeps us thin and makes our complexion smooth."

Mrs Krasinskaya, a trim incarnation of new womanhood, with pictures of Versace designs on her office wall "for dreaming about", reflected that the changes in outlook began when Raisa Gorbachev became First Lady. "Before that, the leaders' wives were stolid and unfashionable. Raisa showed that it was possible to be politically involved but still attractive and fashion-conscious. Now women are a bit disappointed by Naina Yeltsin; she looks a bit like President Bush's wife."

She is concerned that the diet craze will cause health

problems. "Russians have a tendency to extremes. I see from many of the letters that people think of losing weight as a kind of competition. Very few have any idea about keeping a balanced diet and we already have reports of anorexia among young girls."

● Cairo: Nine million citizens from the former Soviet Union took advantage of new freedoms to travel abroad last year, Russia's leading tourism executive told a travel agents' conference in Cairo yesterday. Vladimir Malinin, president of the Intourist travel agency, said that he expected ten million people from Russia to travel abroad in 1992.

## Vatican and Mexico re-establish links

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Vatican said yesterday it was re-establishing diplomatic relations with Mexico, after a history of state animosity towards the church and periods of persecution of Christians.

Mexico is to send an ambassador to the Holy See and an apostolic nuncio is to be appointed in Mexico City. Mexico severed relations with the Vatican in the 1860s. The country has a tradition of anticlericalism but also a strong Roman Catholic Church. Under the 1917 revolutionary constitution, the church was denied all juridical recognition. In the 1920s there was a

Catholic rebellion in western Mexico. Churches were burnt and priests hung.

After 1940, a *modus vivendi* between church and state was achieved: anti-clerical laws were not repealed but were no longer strictly observed.

The present Pope has been keen to improve ties with Mexico, visiting the country early in his pontificate. In 1979, two years ago he made a second trip, and President Salinas de Gortari visited the Vatican. Last year, the Mexican constitution was amended to recognise the church and its institutions.



# Tehran threatens to shoot down aircraft over disputed islands

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

IRAN is prepared to shoot down any aircraft violating its air space as tension grows over disputed islands in the Gulf, according to General Mansour Sattari, the air force commander. He said on Tehran radio yesterday that his aircraft were stepping up their watch over the contentious clutch of islands headed by Abu Musa in the Strait of Hormuz, also claimed by the United Arab Emirates. His pilots were ready to repulse any intrusion by "mischievous foreigners".

"The air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran will act with greater vigilance," said the general. "Any aircraft violating Iran's airspace will be forced to make an emergency landing or, if necessary, will be shot." The air force commander said all the equipment and spare parts required to keep its planes flying were now manufactured in Iran. These include American-built Phantom and F14 Tomcats. In February the general said that Iran had deployed Russian-made MiG29 fighters and Sukhoi-24 attack planes as well as F7s, Chinese versions of the MiG21.

Egypt's semi-official media yesterday launched a savage, government-directed broadside against Iran for seizing

control of the Arab-owned islands and drew an ominous parallel with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The attack and a pledge of co-ordinated Arab action coincided with the arrival here for talks of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahayan, president of the emirates, which claims that the islands are part of its territory and declared that it was taking the dispute to international arbitration.

Iran has accused the Western allies of deliberately whipping up the crisis, which coincides with mounting concern at Iran's territorial ambitions and acquisition of weaponry. Iraq, meanwhile, has offered to intercede on behalf of the Arab majority from which it has been isolated since last year's Gulf war.

The roots of the trouble go back to the eve of the formation of the UAE in 1971 when Iran dispatched troops to the largest island of Abu Musa and to neighbouring, uninhabited islands called the Lesser and Greater Tunbs. No agreement was reached with the Emirate of Ras al-Khaimah over the Tunbs, but Britain brokered a pact with Sharjah for shared control of Abu Musa.

Last month, Iran unilaterally reneged on that deal, con-

vincing many Western observers that it planned to use the island in the shipping lane which carries half the world's oil as a base for three submarines that it is now purchasing from Russia.

"So let Iran go astray and violate legitimacy and the law," wrote Samir Ragab, a close confidant of President Mubarak in yesterday's *Egyptian Gazette*. He said: "But it has to learn the law-of-the-jungle eras are long over and that it is not in the interest of people to stand against the international community. It can take an example from Saddam Hussein."

"Once again Cairo [which helped organise the anti-Iraq coalition] stands with right and proclaims that the three UAE islands will remain Arab despite the tricks and vicious manoeuvres of the Persians."

When Syria, an Arab ally of Iran, attempted to intervene at the weekend it was informed that Tehran refused to drop its claim to full sovereignty over Abu Musa. The official Iranian news agency later reported: "Abu Musa will become one of the most beautiful islands in the Islamic Republic of Iran in the near future."

Its dispatch was datelined "Abu Musa, Hormuzgan Province", the mainland province which Tehran now insists includes Abu Musa — rather as Iraq insisted that Kuwait was its 19th province.

"The coarse Iranian aggression against Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunb island should not be tolerated in silence," said the Cairo paper *Al-Gomhouriya* yesterday. "The Iranian aggression should be faced strongly by a United Arab attitude."

Another Cairo daily, *Al-Akhar*, asserted that the documents proved all three islands belonged to the UAE. It declared that the dispute had "revealed Iran's ambitions to some Arab lands and its attempt to impose its hegemony by force".



Rocky path: John Lundstrom walking with 508lb of stone in Highland Games at Loon Mountain, New Hampshire. A Canadian beat him by an inch

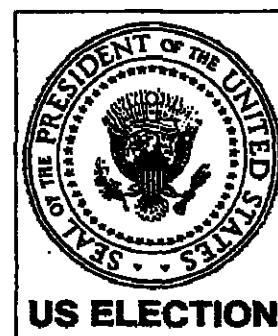
## Clinton begins TV attack on Bush economic record

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton, rocked by the Republicans' assault on his Vietnam draft record, has sharply increased his attacks on President Bush's economic stewardship and begun airing the first negative commercial of the autumn campaign.

Opinion polls show the Democrat well ahead in key states of the Mid-West, the region where Mr Bush must decisively outperform his opponent on November 3 if he is to regain the White House. Mr Bush seems unable to find a potent theme to narrow the gap. With six weeks to go, Mr Clinton leads the president by 19 points in Illinois, eight in Ohio and 21 in Missouri — states that have voted Republican in all the last three presidential elections. Even in Indiana, Vice-President Dan Quayle's home state where no Democrat has won in 28 years, Mr Clinton and the president are level-pegging.

Yesterday in Chicago, Mr Clinton received the endorsement of more than 400 corporate chief executives. A national poll in *USA Today* showed Mr Clinton leading Mr Bush by 52 per cent to 36 on economic matters despite the president's efforts to portray him as an old-style tax-and-spend liberal. The previous evening the Arkansas governor had chosen another critical Mid-West state, Michi-



US ELECTION

gan, to launch his harshest attack yet on Mr Bush's economic record.

Speaking in Macomb County, a stronghold of blue-collar, white "Reagan Democrats" north of Detroit, Mr Clinton accused President Bush of paying lip service to traditional values while worshipping "the quick buck" and rewarding those who "cut corners and cut deals". Workers in car manufacturing factories had been decimated in the past four years, he said, "but if you take corporations apart, you're a big winner".

Mr Bush's promised across-the-board tax cuts would give a millionaire enough to buy a Maserati, an average working family enough for a tank of petrol, he said. Having spent four years railing at big government, Mr Bush was now "throwing money around at election time like there was no tomorrow".

The Clinton camp has also begun airing a 30-second advertisement in key states that punctuates a damning commentary on America's economic performance with clips of President Bush promising 30 million new jobs over eight years, denying any recession and insisting "the economy is strengthening". The advertisement asks how President Bush could solve the economic problem if he did not even understand it.

A spokeswoman for the Bush campaign called the latest advertisement a "diversionary tactic" to distract attention from Mr Clinton's evasiveness on the draft dodging issue.

## Shanghai Liu takes lid off China's love life

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN SHANGHAI

LIU Dalin rummaged in the cupboard and emerged with a small, crudely fashioned pottery boat. He lifted off the awning on the deck to reveal a man and woman, their naked bodies entwined. This is just one piece of Mr Liu's collection of antique erotica.

Mr Liu is China's foremost sexologist, whose book, *Sexual Behaviour in Modern China*, is released this month. It is the first comprehensive survey of sexual activity in China

and its nearly 900 pages are full of statistics, such as only about 13 per cent of people regularly make love naked.

Trained as a sociologist, Mr Liu helped to organise Shanghai's first series of lectures on sex in 1985. Afterwards he received 500 letters telling stories of ignorance and frustration. He decided, against advice, to set up his own research centre. His wife was afraid he would be laughed at, so he agreed to use a pen

name. Even today, Mr Liu is a controversial character.

He put his survival so far down to a more open attitude towards sex which has developed with moves towards economic openness, and also his own caution. "There are things which I can discuss with my colleagues which I couldn't lecture on," he said.

Communist leaders claim that, because of ordinary people's "low cultural level", they cannot be trusted to make up

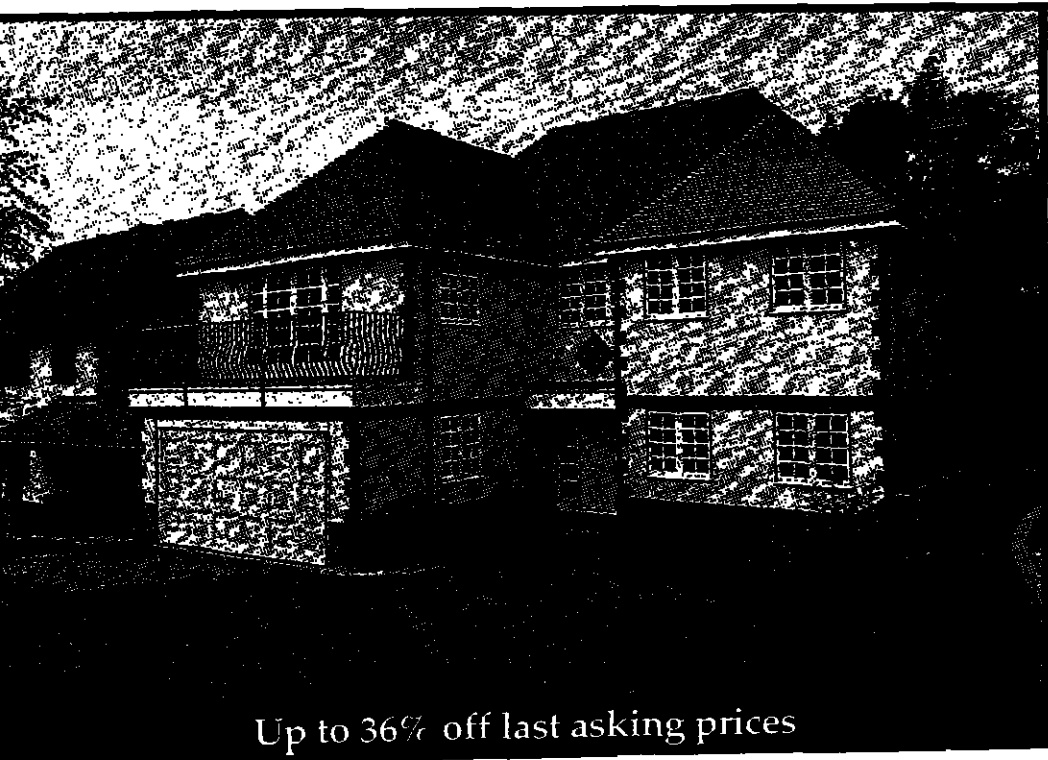
their own minds about things sexual. Pornography is on the government hitlist, but Mr Liu suggested that sometimes it can enhance the sex life of a married couple. He gestured at his ornaments, which in pre-communist days were used as sex education aides for new brides. "I can buy these things. It's my work, the police won't arrest me. But for an ordinary person to put them in his shop window would be impossible."



Al-Ahram's view of Iran's President Rafsanjani

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## Woodrow Wyatt

We don't need a referendum on Maastricht here

The prime minister would be foolish to hold a referendum on Maastricht. The campaign would spawn wild and exaggerated claims on both sides exacerbating divisions in the Tory and Labour parties. To reach an approximate national consensus, as the French government only scraped a Yes vote by a whisker, it is obvious that a referendum here would be rejected by a substantial majority and humiliate the government. John Major understands that; he should act as though we have already had a painless referendum.

Now is his great chance to end bruising squabbles and respond to the nation's mood. The great majority accept that the single market has huge advantages and wish to remain in it. What sticks in the gullet is the attempt to turn it into a centralised political union ruled by bureaucrats who sincerely believe they know better than we do what is best for us. The Brussels bureaucrats took a hiding on Sunday and they know it. The moment is ripe to impose on them a clear, legal definition of the limits of their powers (subsidiarity) and make them withdraw many powers they have assumed. This has to be done anyway to satisfy the objections of the Danes, without whose consent a reshaped Maastricht treaty cannot be ratified. It has to be reshaped, not merely to suit the Danes but half France and possibly more than half Germany as well as other European countries with strong claims to join the Community.

Apart from leaving open our decision on joining the single currency and the central European bank, we opted out of the social charter at Maastricht, maintaining our right to decide our own conditions of work. The ruse by which Brussels has been trying to control them under the rules relating to health must be formally disclaimed.

Maastricht references to the improbable dream "of creating an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe" must be deleted. It is clearly not what the peoples of Europe want. The single currency and the central European bank are in the same category and the ERM blew itself up last week. If France and the Benelux countries wish to tie themselves to the German mark that is their affair. The ERM functioning must be completely changed before we re-enter it, unlikely for years.

Tory newspapers, prolific in their demands for Mr Lamont's resignation (they do not quite dare to ask for Mr Major's though he and Mr Lamont were as Tweedledum and Tweedledee) should rejoice at their skilful handling of the currency turbulence. It was not wrong to be flexible over interest rates last Wednesday in an endeavour to meet our obligations to the ERM. Happily, it led to our present freedom to allow the pound, like the dollar, to find different levels against different currencies.

Some businessmen, enthusiasts for the ERM until they yelled to get out because it hurt them, now clamour for large interest rate cuts. I never supported our being in the ERM but thought that, in or out, we could not have interest rates much lower than Germany's for fear of large amounts of cash moving from Britain to Germany and pushing the pound further down. As we must continue the drive against inflation and increased public spending or be suppressed, this is still the case. Boldness combined with caution is the Major-Lamont approach. They deserve our backing.

The case of Dr Cox demonstrates exactly how the law ought to work in a humane society, argues Janet Daley

## The doctors' dilemma

The jury who tried Dr Nigel Cox were scarcely less wracked by their moral dilemma than the man they had in the dock. What does it mean, after all, to do right? The question goes back to Plato but now it usually takes the form: is acting morally the same thing as acting legally? And if not, does that mean that there is something gravely wrong with the law?

In sentencing Dr Nigel Cox to a 12-month suspended sentence, Mr Justice Ognall faced the ancient riddle and, straining the words available to him to their logical limits, effected a compromise between humanity and blind justice.

There could be no question, he said, that Dr Cox's decision to cause the death of his patient, Mrs Lilian Boyes, was a crime. While making it clear that such conduct could never be legally excused, Mr Justice Ognall said that it could, in this case, be explained. Wading further into the conundrums which have been raised by the case, Mr Justice Ognall referred to what he called "the duty of a

physician". This was, in his own word, "unequivocal" and it clearly precluded deliberately causing a patient to die.

He returned several times in his remarks to Dr Cox's "clear duty" as a doctor, opposing it to his understandable distress as a friend and, presumably, a fellow human being, at the sight of Mrs Boyes's terrible suffering. The judge was, in other words, suggesting that Dr Cox's role as a professional was to be seen as quite separate from his inclinations as a private person. If he was to behave legally, he might well have to forgo his own personal moral impulses.

There is nothing remarkable about this. Such an assumption is fundamental to the rule of law in what Plato would have called a just state. An objective set of rules which we all agree to accept even when they occasionally go against our inclinations, is necessary for

any ordered society. And one of the rules with which we are most reluctant to tamper is the one which says that it is wrong to kill people.

But the defining of a doctor's role as being to preserve life at all costs has been superseded by technology. Since it is now possible to perform miracles undreamt of by Hippocrates, we have legally recognised that the prolonging of life by relentless medical intervention is unacceptable.

Not only may the incurable be permitted to die peacefully but the relief of suffering may even be given a higher priority than life itself since pain-relieving drugs which hasten death are perfectly legal. Dr Cox's crime was that the drug which he gave to Mrs Boyes could not have been intended to do anything but end her life.

Potassium chloride is not a pain-killer and therefore, in ad-

ministering it, Dr Cox was neither preserving life nor relieving suffering. All that he was doing was killing his patient. But when suffering cannot be stopped by even the largest doses of pain-killers, how are we to interpret a doctor's professional obligation to relieve it? When a life consists of nothing but hopeless suffering, does the doctor's moral responsibility become the releasing of a patient from that life?

The fact that the courts, in the person of particular hapless jurors, are left to muddle through such horrific questions while the law speaks in grand inhuman generalities, does not mean that the system has failed. To declare, as the jury did, that Dr Cox was guilty of attempted murder was unquestionably correct, not only in a flat-footed semantic sense but in a moral one. The fact that they wept while they did so does not

contradict the soundness of their judgment. And it was quite wicked for advocates of euthanasia to have stated that the jury should be ashamed of their verdict. For the judge to further declare that Dr Cox had been in clear breach of his duty as a physician, but then to mitigate that judgment with obvious compassion and leniency does not make the law or the morality it represents an ass.

On the contrary, this is precisely how the law ought to work in a civilised society. To accommodate individual circumstances without corrupting basic principles, is an absolutely sound basis for a humane system of justice. It has its roots in John Stuart Mill's reformed brand of utilitarianism. Mill saw that the crude equation of morality with "the greatest happiness of the greatest number" was open to absurd abuse. Imagine a society consisting of ten

people, eight of whom are sadists whose happiness will be most effectively maximised by torturing the remaining two. So he modified the philosophy: the rules of a game may sometimes seem unfair or unsatisfactory, the leg-before-wicket rule in cricket, for example, while at the same time — taken over a period — making for a better game.

In the same way, following the rules of morality may, in some circumstances, yield up unacceptable results. But in the end, we are better off having the rule than dismantling it. On the whole, going for policies which make the largest number of people happy is a good thing, even though there are exceptions. And, on the whole, it is right to treat the taking of life, even by a doctor, as a crime.

If occasionally we have to deal with a harrowing exception, it is perfectly right and proper that we show humanity and leniency. In doing that, we are not challenging the soundness of the general rule but simply accepting that life, unlike the law, does not consist of principles but of people.

## What if Major was a German?

He would put the prosperity of his country first, says Nicholas Ridley

John Major and his supporters in Cabinet still seem to be unaware of the magnitude of the disaster that has overtaken their policy of giving priority to membership of the exchange rate mechanism (ERM). It has failed: we have devalued substantially, and the mechanism has proved itself incapable of holding currency parities which the markets do not accept.

The British economy has been sacrificed on the altar of the ERM. Appalling and quite unnecessary damage has been done to business, jobs, profits, exports, house prices and mortgage holders. Far from getting economic growth we have thrown away some 4 per cent of gross national product on a dogma that rested on faulty economics and a very un-Tory belief that one "could buck the markets".

The most depressing situation is that Mr Major and his cabinet still do not seem to have learnt the lesson. They still seem to hanker to get back in. They realise that some time must be allowed to elapse. They are beginning to cobble up conditions for a reformed ERM, but the ultimate policy objective of rejoining still seems to remain.

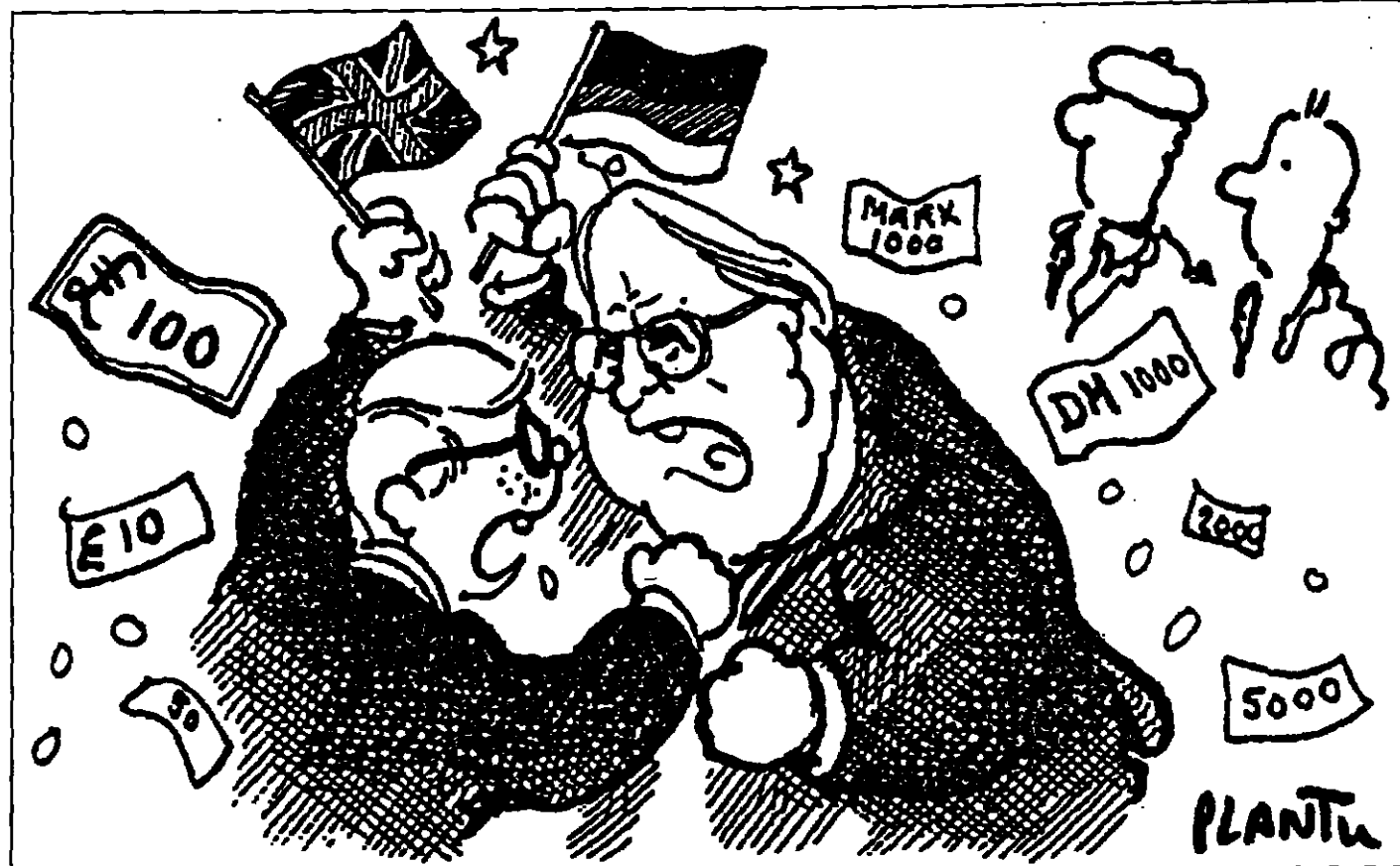
Those very conditions first aired by Mr Major last week and then by Norman Lamont in Washington over the weekend show how little they have understood the sheer impossibility of what they have been trying to do and still seem to want to go on doing. It smacks of the obstinacy of pride rather than of guts and consistency. Defending the impossible is the hallmark of failures not the characteristic of victors.

Those conditions appear to be three. First, no one should talk during a currency price crisis or say anything about markets and prices. Second, central banks should intervene earlier when a currency comes under strain in the ERM and buy heavily before the market's sober victory. Third, there should be friendly realignment of interest rates all the time to suit all members of the ERM.

The first condition is merely petulant. The government have tried to make the German Bundesbank scapegoats for what has happened. There will always be leaks and rumours. Lies flown and damned lies. The trouble is that the system is such that talk has an important effect on operators in the market. It told them something. By setting up a floor to the pound's value, any suggestion that it might be the wrong floor increases the likelihood of a good one-way bet against it.

Markets price currencies, not governments, and the markets had known the pound was overvalued for weeks. All they needed to discover was whether governments and central banks had realised this and were going to do something about it. The fault was not indiscreet words but trying to resist the markets. The idea of a new ERM treaty containing a clause that no one will say anything cannot be taken seriously.

The second condition is equally flawed but infinitely more expensive. Germany and Britain both spent billions of our money in fruitless intervention to save the lira, the pound and other currencies last week. The needless giving of substantial public funds to dealers through fruitless intervention is a disgrace. What have the taxpayers got for the money lost on intervention last week? Nothing. Intervention cannot work and never has worked in the face of a serious assault upon a currency, and should be abandoned. (It can be harmless in smoothing currency changes in quiet times but even then it is unnecessary.) After all it is illegal for a company to intervene to support its own share price. Nor does it work, because sooner or later it is spotted, and the markets quickly adjust to discount its effects. The government should be ashamed of its recent 10 billion euro loan, part of which it totally wasted when intervening last week. That debt will have to be repaid one day. To intervene earlier is thus to have an opportu-



When national interests clash: a squabbling Chancellor Kohl and the prime minister as seen by Le Monde this weekend

nity to waste money earlier as well as later. Early intervention may buy a few more days or weeks of stability, but in no way removes the cause of the trouble which is an overvalued currency. It is impossible to argue that earlier intervention by central banks could have had any effect on last week's crisis other than to make more dealers richer earlier as well as rich last week.

The third condition goes right to the heart of the ERM and is an eloquent criticism of the system. With the same petulant hunt for scapegoats the government wants all ERM members continually to adjust their interest rates so that no one country hurts another's economic policy. They wanted the Germans to lower their interest rates because they did not suit. The Germans wanted and needed high interest rates in order to curb

their rising inflation. Mr Major thinks inflation is the chief evil (and so do I). So why should he be cross if the Germans do what he would have done if he had been a German? The Bundesbank, moreover, has a statutory duty to defend the value of the mark. Does he really think they should break the law just to suit us?

It so happened that at the same time we wanted lower interest rates to relieve the pressure on the British economy. But because of the ERM constraint we could not lower them. So we pursued a high interest rate policy, despite the very great damage it was doing, for no other reason than to appease the Germans. It is impossible and wrong to accept situations where nations do damaging things to their own economies just for the

love of other nations. An ERM where there was some way of cajoling or forcing one member state to do what another wanted is one where millions could be made bankrupt or unemployed, or where inflation could get out of hand for no conceivable good reason. It would no longer be an exchange rate mechanism; it would be a single currency. That is why the Maastricht treaty is so wrong, and why it should be dropped. But to argue that the precursor of economic and monetary union (EMU) — the ERM — has failed, so therefore we should go on to EMU is perverse indeed, and makes frighteningly clear the extent to which the government has still not got the message.

None of these three conditions makes any sense, nor is there a cat's chance in hell of any of them being accepted. They will all make

matters worse on a future occasion. The lesson is that there must not be a future occasion. We must never repeat the dangerous policy of the past. To go back into the ERM after a devaluation would be to invite the whole costly and damaging saga to repeat itself. I earnestly entreat that we don't get bitten again.

If some countries on the continent want to persist, if we are to have a two-speed Europe, so be it: that is their lookout. I do not see disadvantages in Germany and the Benelux countries keeping the present arrangement, but to force Britain and the others in as part of an ideological goal of monetary union is something to which we should say "never again".

Lord Ridley was Conservative MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury 1959-1992.



...and moreover  
**CRAIG BROWN**

From time to time, this column is given over to a leading figure in the world of politics or the arts to deliver his verdict on Britain's place in the world. Today, leading British film director Michael Winner, whose films include the long-awaited remake of *Mary Poppins*, *Mary Poppins: Cop Killer*, attacks the prevailing ethos of the British cinema:

When I first came into our industry back in the early Fifties, there were over 100 different agencies, all of them anxious that I should make movies for them. In those heady years, I succeeded in making a great many distinguished and profitable movies, including *Brief Encounter 3*, in which the late Johnson character, played by Diana Dors, finally succumbs to a dirty weekend at a nudist colony with the Trevor Howard character, played by Charles Hawtrey — leading to no end of saucy capers!

On a deeper level, there was also my distinguished and widely acclaimed British film about the life of the great philosopher, Wignerstein, *Carry On Thinking*, with the late lamented Sid James as Wignerstein and my very good friend Barbara Windsor as the incorrigible Dora Russell.

Headly days, indeed, and I am proud to have played my part in the heyday of what was once a Great British Industry. At that time, we didn't bother about social significance or messages: we were far too interested in telling a great story. For instance, I hope I may be allowed, in all

humility, to mention one of my own great movies from the Sixties, the 1968 low-budget remake of *Lawrence of Arabia*, called *Lawrence of Guldoford*, and filmed entirely on location, best remembered by film buffs for its ten-minute shot of the Omar Sharif character, played by Reg Varney, resplendent in his old sheet, riding his three-speed bicycle over the Hog's Back.

Well, that movie told a great story, earned a fortune at the box office (propping up Dr Zhivago, with which it went on general release) and allowing those of us who love this industry and ourselves to feel very proud indeed. Comedy, too, was my forte: there was laughter all the way in *"Massacre at St Trinian's"*, the sixth (and last) of that famous series.

On a more personal note, as the British film industry was going down the pan in the Seventies, I moved my operations to America, where they still seemed to know the meaning of sheer, honest-to-goodness entertainment and where profit was not a dirty word. In vastly enjoyable movies of mine like *"Cold-Blooded Massacre"*, *"Bloodbath 3"*, *"Kill Jill"* and my remake of *Lady and the Tramp*, *"Lady and the Rogweiller"*, I wasn't afraid to offer a good, old-fashioned night out to the average cinema-goer. For just ten dollars, they could witness on average 12 vicious slayings, 15 unwarranted massacres per movie, and still come out with spare change for a hot dog. And why should profit be

considered such a dirty word? I once said to the late Orson Welles, "Orson I said, I love your movies. They've been a great influence on my own movies. And I can't praise them higher than that." To which I feel sure Orson would have replied, if only he'd still been alive. Yet the fact remains that *Citizen Kane*, though it is considered by many to be just as entertaining a movie as my own *"Bloodbath 3"*, never made a profit. Orson lacked the commercial touch, and tragically failed to recognise that these days it doesn't matter how artistic a movie might be, if it hasn't got a good, old-fashioned revenge killing every three to four minutes, it'll be a box office turkey.

You see, these days the people who run what is left of the British film industry think that a message is more important than a pump-action machine gun and that social significance is more crucial than healthy fun-for-all-the-family staples such as mass carnage, masked rapists and hooded prowlers with knives galore. Small wonder, then, that the industry that was once able to boast a healthy profit from such minor masterpieces such as my own *"Sound of Music 2: The Hills Revenge"* and *"Bloodbath 15"* has now lost me to Hollywood. We are all agreed that this is very, very sad.

Only when the British film industry has come up with the money to invest in a brand new Michael Winner movie will I be persuaded to return to these shores. And if that's not an incentive, I don't know what is.

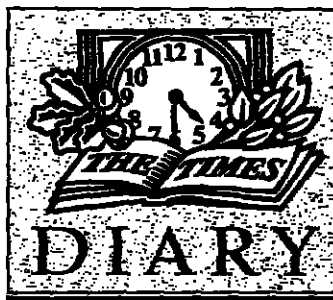
## Sterling efforts to be ready

AS THE party whips spend the week furiously rounding up their errand boys for Thursday's recall of Parliament, one who may be quite grateful for the early return to duty is Roger Freeman, the stunt-prone transport minister. The sterling crisis and the hasty scheduling of the emergency debate has forced him to cancel his long-planned "fact-finding" trip to Siberia on the famous railway from Moscow and on across the wastes of Mongolia.

"He still intends to go," says one of Freeman's aides, "but it may not be until next year now."

Freeman is not the only one to cancel or cut short travel arrangements. Yesterday the Westminster authorities increased their frantic activity in order to have everyone and everything in place by Thursday. A quick tour of the Palace of Westminster revealed that large chunks of it resemble nothing so much as a building site and where one normally expects to see smartly-uniformed functionaries there are only blue-overalled workmen. Corridors are closed, carpets are up and plaster is hanging off the walls. Henry Webber, director of works at the Commons, says: "When we heard that Parliament was being recalled our people walked round the building with members of the Sergeant at Arms and Black Rod's offices to see which services could be restored in time. It would have been even harder to cope with two or three weeks ago."

With John Major already forced out of Downing Street by the builders, if Parliament had also been compelled to meet elsewhere it would have only added to the air of crisis. Happily Webber confidently predicts that most of the Commons will be habitable in time



carat set of seven coins minted this year as a prototype of the British *Ecu*. At just £27.50 for the collection, events of the past week look likely to turn the coins into collectors' items. "Buy a piece of British history," runs the slogan. Quite.

## Bard member

SIR William Shakespeare has become a trustee of the Shakespeare Globe project which is seeking to build a faithful recreation of the original Elizabethan theatre on London's Bankside.

Sir William, a distinguished member of the medical profession, is a direct descendant of Shakespeare's cousin John and an enthusiastic student of his ancestor's works. But he insists the invitation from Sam Wanamaker, the

It's a small Globe.



Globe's chief executive, was as unexpected as the appearance of the ghost of Hamlet's father.

"I simply do not know how he found me," said Sir William from his Buckinghamshire home yesterday. "But I am very pleased to be involved with the Globe and hope that my name — or is it his? — will help in raising necessary funds."

●Zubin Mehta has discovered a way to avoid the nightly jam of Pavarotti fans who gather at the stage door of Covent Garden. The ebullient conductor of the hugely successful revival of *Tosca* is surreptitiously ushered by staff to a fire door further up Floral Street and with black Fedora firmly pulled down over his face he makes a dash to his waiting Rolls Royce across the street before being whisked away for a quiet supper.

## Res not awfully des

The delights of Candida Lycett Green's country house in Wiltshire are spread all across eight pages of the October issue of *Vogue*. Sumptuous interiors jostle with shots of the rambling garden. The editorial extols the delights of the "dew pond, wild deer and probably the best bluebells in Wiltshire". The Lycett Greens are blissfully happy in their rural idyll, the piece gushes.

Some surprise, then, to see the same picture this week in a property ad in *Country Life*. Surely this blissful home could not be up for sale? Alexandra Shulman, *Vogue's* editor, says: "The piece was put together three months ago. Candida decided to sell only three weeks ago." Pure coincidence, but Lycett Green, the daughter of the late John Betjeman, is a contributing editor of *Vogue*. There's no such thing as a free advert, as Milton Friedman might have said.

●The American National Association of Pessimists — a 200-strong body whose motto is "in front of every silver lining there's a dark cloud" — has provisionally set the date of its next convention to coincide with the anniversary of the sinking of the *Titanic*. A spokesman for the association says: "The date is tentative to allow for missed plane connections and other natural disasters."





## LET THE PEOPLE SPEAK

The grudging French endorsement of the Maastricht treaty should bring equally grudging celebration in Downing Street. John Major, whose popularity has crashed at a record rate in response to his economic mismanagement, must now use his leadership of the EC to shape a fresh treaty. Then he should ask the British people to support the result.

Until now Mr Major has rejected the use of a British referendum. To remove the decision from the safety of Parliament has seemed to him both politically unwise and a sign of personal weakness. Yesterday his foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, reiterated the government's antipathy to giving the British people the same rights as the Danes, the Irish and the French.

Mr Major would be wise to change his mind in favour of a referendum rather than bow to the pressure to leave the ERM last week. To lose one battle with more powerful forces can be considered foolish; to lose a second could cost him his job.

It is not hard to understand Mr Major's passion for boldness. To follow one of the most resolute prime ministers of modern times was never going to be easy, especially for a man then thought too nice to be a politician. Mr Major has shown great resolution. But he has failed to choose the targets of his resolution with the necessary care. An exchange rate of DM2.7780 was one foolish choice. Now that the French have voted their narrow "yes", opposition to a British referendum could be another.

Mr Major might recall that Mrs Thatcher was frequently more flexible than she liked to appear. The lady was for turning when politics dictated it, except, fatally, over the poll tax. After the French result, the prime minister must swiftly reassess his resolve.

Whatever his stated preference for a "yes" vote, it has landed him in a far stickier political position than a rejection of the treaty would have done. With a small parliamentary majority and in the teeth of a growing group of sceptical MPs (one of whom yesterday predicted "trench warfare"), Mr Major will have to persuade Parliament to ratify a treaty whose terms, if they are not amended, would be widely reviled.

Mr Major's slide so far has been cushioned by a lucky coincidence of circumstances. The next general election is a long way away. Both opposition parties had locked themselves into agreement with the government over the ERM; so their criticism has been unnaturally subdued. No obvious successor has yet shown himself ready to take advantage of Mr Major's plight. Neither of the last two strokes of fortune, though, will necessarily last.

Calling a referendum would help Mr Major. Apart from earning him popularity with voters, who show in poll after poll that they want to be consulted, it would also

appease the voluble critics in his own party. Mr Major may be holding back for fear of an eventual "no" vote. If so, that would be both dishonourable and foolish. He ought not to impose any constitutional change on a country that does not want it. Nothing, in the long run, would make him more unpopular.

A referendum is not simply a politically pragmatic option; it is also the right one. Mr Hurd was arrogant to suggest yesterday that a ratification of the treaty by Parliament would be democratically sufficient. MPs may be, as he says, "newly elected", but none has an electoral mandate to press ahead with Maastricht. At the last general election British people were not given the chance to vote for a party that did not support Maastricht. It is precisely because policy on Europe has not divided along traditional party lines that a referendum is called for, just as it was in 1975 when both main parties were split over whether Britain should remain in the EC.

Britain is no Switzerland. This country holds referendums only on matters of constitutional importance. The Maastricht treaty or any likely successor is just such a matter. If the people of Britain do not want it, they should not be forced to accept it. But if they do vote for it, their decision could at last lay to rest the country's debilitating ambivalence about European union, just as the 1975 poll established that the question of Britain's EC membership was no longer at issue.

This is why it is important that in the remaining months of the EC presidency, Mr Major should seek to negotiate a package for which he could sincerely recommend a "yes" vote, and one that is likely to attract such an endorsement. In the circumstances in which the Maastricht treaty was agreed, he probably did win for Britain the best deal he could. But circumstances have changed. The Danes have rejected the treaty. Nearly half the French — perhaps the most Europhile people of the Community — have expressed their reservations. The Germans have shown themselves in opinion polls to be three to one against jettisoning the mark. The present economic and monetary union proposals are now unachievable.

All this points to some form of renegotiation of Maastricht. It is idle to suppose that the wholehearted support of the European people can be won simply by appending the odd "clarification" to the treaty. As president of the EC and as the country with the strongest reservations about over-extension of the European Commission's competence, Britain is well placed to address the anxieties of those in Denmark and France who voted no. Mr Major should come back from his October summit with the outline of a treaty that more than a bare majority of Europeans can back. If he achieves that, he should be able to win the support of the British people too.

## BUDGETING FOR GROWTH

An unforeseen alliance of French voters, German bankers, international currency traders and his own pride has sucked the life from John Major's economic thinking. Whitehall abhors a vacuum. Unless Britain's future is to be entrusted again to market-buckers, Maastricht-makers and hangers upon the lips of Chancellor Kohl, the prime minister needs a new set of tenets.

Norman Lamont gave a good signal yesterday by saying that the new aim of British policy was "sustained non-inflationary growth". Aggressive cuts in interest rates, linked to lower public spending, lower taxes on investment and a sustained attempt to rebuild political credibility could yet make that aim more than a dream.

Interest rates should be cut to 8 per cent between now and next month's Conservative party conference. Rapid action would have far more impact on confidence than the meagre half-point cuts that have so signally failed since 1990.

Interest rate reductions have to be balanced by lower public borrowing. Now that Britain can set its own interest rates again, reduced public borrowing will make more savings available for private investment. The present PSBR of more than 5 per cent of GDP is far too high to be sustainable. The Maastricht figure of 3 per cent should be treated as a minimum medium-term target. Ideally, the PSBR should be reduced to zero, once full employment is returning.

The exchange rate may fall further as a result of these measures but this should not cause alarm. The best time to have a falling exchange rate is at a time of recession when factories and workers are underemployed. At present a falling pound will not create wage inflation. As the economy strengthens, the pound will rise. There is virtue in a strong pound — but only in strength created because sterling is in demand. A pound which is propped up by high interest rates is not strong at all.

Ultimately the government should aim to cut interest rates to 5 or 6 per cent. This may seem unreasonably low in the light of past British experience. But it is about the level in Australia and Canada and considerably higher than in America and Japan.

If interest rates fell to such levels, substantial cuts in public spending would be needed to maintain the pressure against inflation. No public spending programme should be exempt from re-examination. There will be the closest debate on the merits of any balance between rate cuts and individual spending cuts and between individual spending priorities. Protection should be greatest for programmes that genuinely protect the poor, for health and education and for investment in transport. Protection should be least for middle-class entitlements and for the bribes to Tory voters that have clogged the tax system over the years.

The biggest economies should be made by

holding down wages throughout the public sector (which have been far less severely hit than private pay). Would Mr Major be bold enough to freeze state pensions for a year? To help the most needy in society, means-tested benefits could be increased by more than the rate of inflation. Child benefits could also be frozen or even cut; and family income support for the poor increased.

Mortgage tax relief should be phased out once the housing market starts to recover. If the government gave notice that new relief would be given only to properties bought within the next 12 months, house purchase would accelerate immediately.

Defence spending should be cut much more aggressively than has been contemplated so far. The European Fighter Aircraft project should be abandoned. Privatisation generally should be accelerated through competitive tendering. British Coal should be quickly sold or even given away.

To increase investment and encourage the entrepreneurship which is the foundation for long-term non-inflationary growth, changes should be made in the capital gains tax. There is a strong case for not taxing capital gains at all, although the kinds of capital gains exempted have to be somewhat circumscribed to stop tax avoidance.

This strategy could be presented as a bid for recovery led by export and investment. Because of the competitive exchange rate, Britain could narrow the trade gap, despite a rapid recovery in domestic demand. The government need not worry about sterling in the short run. A sharp fall in the pound now, when the economy is becalmed, carries far less risk of inflation than would a gradual decline later in the economic cycle when domestic demand would be rising fast. Within two or three years the rapid growth of the economy and productivity should make the pound stronger than it is today. It might even be worth DM2.95.

How can Mr Major make the markets believe in his new strategy? The government is right to say it will watch a whole series of monetary indicators, including broad and narrow money, asset prices and the exchange rate. Mr Major may not want to appear to ape Mrs Thatcher's successful techniques of the early Eighties, but there is much to be said for a broader medium-term financial strategy.

The reforms of budget-making and spending control, announced for next year, ought to increase the credibility of public expenditure targets. They should be brought forward. The need is now.

Mr Major must begin his new battle plan in the House of Commons debate later this week. Although he will face open mockery from his critics, he will also have the chance to show his decisiveness. He can still break away from failure if he is truly minded to do so. In the darkest days of defeat, the brightest ambitions can be born.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Three-point plan of Liverpool Six

From Professor Tim Congdon and others

Sir, We write to welcome the government's decision to leave the European exchange-rate mechanism. There should be no intention whatsoever of rejoining the ERM "when conditions allow". We strongly support Mr Lamont's new principle that "a British economic policy and a British monetary policy" (report, September 19) should be set to meet domestic objectives rather than to fix the exchange rate.

We also agree wholeheartedly with the government's commitment to price stability as its long-run priority in economic policy. But at present significant interest rate reductions are needed in order to promote recovery, to ease the strains in the housing market and to help our major financial institutions rebuild their profits and capital.

If there are such reductions in interest rates, the next few weeks may see a further drop in external value of the pound and a rise in higher inflation. In our view, the falls in both interest rates and the exchange rate are necessary in current circumstances to combat the severity of the recession. But the government must remain determined to achieve price stability in the longer term. Indeed, the danger that devaluation may be seen as the prelude to renewed inflation emphasises the need to establish a robust framework for monetary policy. We have three main proposals.

1. The Bank of England should be given operational independence from government, in the same way as the Federal Reserve in the United States of America and the Bundesbank in Germany. We believe that operational independence nevertheless has to be reconciled with full parliamentary accountability and so with our democratic institutions.

Our favoured method would be for Parliament to pass at regular intervals (of, say, ten years) a Bank Charter Act which would require the Bank to meet certain objectives. The most important such objective would of course be price stability. Parliament could examine the Bank's senior officials from time to time, to see whether the objectives were being met.

### The French vote

From Sir John Killick

Sir, We do not know to what extent the "no" vote in France reflects nothing more than general antipathy to President Mitterrand and the French government. The same may to some extent be true in the opposite sense of the "yes" vote. As a measure of support for or opposition to Maastricht the figures seem to me to be pretty meaningless.

Much the same would surely be true of a referendum held in this country, and that is not the least of the objections to the idea.

It would be interesting to know to what extent French voters were comprehensively and dispassionately informed of the substance of Maastricht, as distinct from being swayed by media hype and heavily slanted party-political rhetoric. How would voters in this country be fairly confronted with the issues? How could the question on such a complicated matter be formulated? How many voters would bother to study the sort of background documentation which ought to be

2. Since inflation is undoubtedly "a monetary phenomenon" (in Milton Friedman's words), the policy framework must include targets for the money supply. Targets for the growth of narrow money have been in force since 1983. We believe that they provide useful information to policy-makers and should be retained.

Our main new recommendation is that the government should set targets for the growth of broad money, which is dominated by bank deposits. Targets for broad money were the centrepiece of economic policy between 1976 and 1985, a decade which saw Britain achieve both a dramatic reduction in inflation and (in the five years to 1986) a fair measure of economic stability. They must be restored. It was the abandonment of money supply targets, along the pegging of sterling at three deutschmarks, that permitted the inflationary excesses of the Lawson boom.

3. The government's principle of balancing the budget over the business cycle should be fully supported. Although the recession is the main cause of the large budget deficit at present, we believe that Treasury ministers are right to seek further cuts in public expenditure. As in 1981, meaningful action to reduce the budget deficit will greatly increase the credibility of policy.

We believe that the announcement of this framework (an independent central bank, money supply targets and a balanced budget) would be greeted with enthusiasm by financial markets — and by the public at large — as an earnest of the government's resolve to restore monetary and economic stability.

Yours faithfully,  
TIM CONGDON,  
BILL MARTIN,  
PATRICK MINFORD,  
GORDON PEPPER,  
ALAN WALTERS,  
PETER WARBURTON,  
Liverpool Macroeconomic Research Ltd,  
PO Box 147,  
Liverpool L69 3BX,  
September 21.

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### In defence of threatened hospitals

From Mr H. N. Whitfield

Sir, It would seem premature for Dr John Chawner, chairman of the consultants' committee of the British Medical Association, to commit that organisation to supporting the recommendations of the leaked Tomlinson report ("Four top hospitals face closure", report, September 11). Neither he nor anyone else, however, should be surprised by the strength of the opposition that will emerge if these leaks are confirmed.

For those who work in the four inner-London teaching hospitals threatened with closure (St Bartholomew's, St Thomas', University College and Middlesex, and Charing Cross) it is difficult to correlate the reduction in attracting contracts that has occurred with the waiting lists that exist, without reference to the overall level of funding for the National Health Service.

The UK spends less on health care than any other EC country but in terms of value for money the service which is available is second to none, and the waiting lists which exist are the mechanism by which successive governments have enabled this service to be provided for 6 per cent of the GNP (in the United States it is 12 per cent).

The threatened hospitals serve populations which are amongst the most deprived inner-city communities in the country and they contain acknowledged national and international experts. It is inconceivable that a report produced and leaked so quickly should deflect us from providing health care for our own district and for those referred to us from all over the UK or from educating the nation's future doctors.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH N. WHITFIELD  
(Consultant urological surgeon),  
St Bartholomew's Hospital,  
Smithfield, EC1,  
September 12.

From Dr J. A. Mathews

Sir, Perhaps leaks are a necessary way of testing public opinion before the announcement of a final decision which could be politically damaging. However, even if (as I sincerely hope) the public rejects outright the idea of closing four of London's top hospitals, it can scarcely claim the expertise in providing health care which might validate such a response. Many of us feel that a similar lack of practical and

### Mercy for mercy

From Dr Colin Brewer and Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, Why not a royal pardon for Dr Nigel Cox, the consultant convicted last week for the attempted murder of a terminally-ill patient (report and leading article, September 21) and given a 12-months' suspended sentence.

In 1936, the Queen's grandfather, George V, had terminal cancer. According to the diaries of the physician, Lord Dawson of Penn, he received, with Queen Mary's approval, and in the privacy of his own home, a lethal injection.

In a Lords debate the same year,

### Called to account

From the Headmaster, Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby

Sir, As headmaster of one of the 50 "lame duck" schools receiving more than £500,000 a year from the government's assisted-places scheme (report, September 11) I would point out:

1. Average cost per pupil in the maintained sector, £2,180. Average cost per assisted place at Merchant Taylors' School, £1,900 (on the latest figures made available to me by the Department of Education and Science).  
2. Local education authority GCSE pass rate (A-C grades), 50 per cent. Merchant Taylors' 98 per cent.  
3. Local education authority A-level results (A-C grades), 47 per cent. Merchant Taylors', 81 per cent.

Perhaps we need more lame ducks.

Yours faithfully,  
S. J. R. DAWKINS, Headmaster,  
Merchant Taylors' School,  
Crosby, Liverpool.

### A holy garden, far away

From Mr Peter G. L. Wells

Sir, Exactly 100 years ago, on September 22, 1892, you published a letter from Mr H. A. Campbell and Mr John Murray appealing for funds to purchase the land in Jerusalem which has since come to be known as the Garden Tomb.

The aim of the purchase was to preserve "the tomb and garden outside the walls of Jerusalem, believed by many to be the sepulchre and garden of Joseph of Arimathea".

When the purchase was completed in 1894 a society was formed "so that the Garden Tomb, Jerusalem, may be kept sacred as a quiet spot and preserved from desecration".

Today's visitors find the garden a peaceful oasis of calm amidst the hustle and bustle of noisy East Jerusalem. Its trees, shrubs and flowers are typical of Bible times and its very naturalness has helped thousands to visualise the dramatic events of the first Easter morning.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER G. L. WELLS,  
The Garden Tomb (Jerusalem) Association,  
The Garden Tomb, PO Box 19462,  
Jerusalem, Israel.

informed opinion exists in government circles.

At one of those four hospitals, St Thomas', a second £500,000 linear accelerator for cancer treatment is currently being installed. A cyclotron producing isotopes for the country's first clinical positron emission tomography scanner (combined cost, £2.4 million) was opened by the Prince of Wales earlier this year. Structural work to enlarge the hospital's accident and emergency department, scheduled to cost over £3 million, is well under way.

Such facts should help to allay anxiety over the future of St Thomas'. However, the track record of government planners in several fields suggests that even investment in new facilities on this huge scale is not an absolute guarantee that the hospital will survive. Demolition soon after new building is not unknown, and a fresh coat of paint can be the worst of omens.

We at St Thomas' are confident that our administration has planned an exciting future for medicine on its present site. Only if, as in the Old Testament, the writing really was on the wall would we welcome this "our of pain".

Yours sincerely,  
J. A. MATHEWS  
(Physician and clinical director,  
Rheumatology Department),  
St Thomas' Hospital,  
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1,  
September 14.

From Dr Monica E. Baly

Sir, Jeremy Laurence's assertion that St Thomas' predates the House of Commons across the Thames is wrong. It was opened by Queen Victoria on its present site on June 21, 1871, some 20 years after the House of Commons. At the time Florence Nightingale declared that it was "the worst site in London". She had advocated a move from Southwark to the bracing air of Blackheath and she never forgave the court of governors for failing to build a really modern hospital outside London.

In *Notes on Hospitals*, published in 1863, Miss Nightingale published a map showing 20 hospitals within five miles of St Paul's and urged their dispersal. The Tomlinson panel would do well to read it.

Yours faithfully,  
MONICA B. B. B.  
19 Royal Crescent, Bath, Avon.

Lord Dawson argued against the legalisation of voluntary euthanasia because it would involve too many formalities and because good doctors could generally be relied on to do it "when the real need is there".

Everyone agrees that Dr Cox is a very good doctor; but most people die in hospital now and are usually treated not by one personal physician but by a team. A royal pardon would be a very appropriate prelude to the changes in the law which are now manifestly needed.

Yours etc.,  
COLIN BREWER,  
LUDOVIC KENNEDY  
(Vice-Presidents),  
The Voluntary Euthanasia Society,  
13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W8.

### Poles, Jews and Nazis

From Mr Jan Sek

Sir, I write in my personal capacity, rather than as a diplomat, to take issue with an ungenerous article by Clifford Longley ("The Jews in Auschwitz should pack up and leave", September 5). He argued that we Poles must be "perpetually reminded" of having been the "accomplices" of the Nazis in murdering millions of Jews. Such remarks are both offensive and untrue.

The truth is that many Poles were murdered by Nazis, their only offence having been harbouring fugitive Jews in what was an unparalleled nationwide operation of charity. According to the famous Nazi-hunter, Simon Wiesenthal, my countrymen saved from certain death some 30,000 Jews. At least one highly responsible historian, Dr Wladyslaw Zajaczkowski, has put the figure far higher.

I remain, Sir, sincerely yours,  
JAN SEK,  
Embassy of the Republic of Poland,  
47 Portland Place, W1.

### Circle of incentive

From Mr John Lewis

Sir, Your transport correspondent's report on British Rail's fare-cutting exercise (September 17) stated that customers spending £5 or more in Boots shops receive a voucher enabling two people to travel on long-distance rail journeys for the price of one. I normally buy petrol at a garage where, once I have purchased a sufficient number of litres, I am entitled to a £5 token for spending in any Boots shop.

All I now need is for British Rail to offer petrol vouchers.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN LEWIS,  
Sulridge House, Medstead,  
Nr Alton, Hampshire.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**YORK HOUSE**  
ST JAMES'S PALACE  
September 21: The Duke of Kent, Chancellor of the University of Surrey, this morning attended the 1992 Conference on Engineering Education, Guildhall, Portsmouth, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Hampshire (Lieutenant Colonel Sir James Scott, Bt).  
His Royal Highness, President of the Royal Armaments Development Trust, this afternoon visited Portsmouth Enterprise Centre, Fort Nelson, Portsmouth.  
Commander Roger Walker, Royal Navy, was in attendance.  
The Duchess of Kent this morning visited the new premises, Ilchester Cheese Company's, and was met on arrival by the Lord Lieutenant for Somerset (Colonel Walter Luttrell).  
Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited HMS Heron, Yeovil, Somerset and later opened the Exeter and District Hospice and was met on arrival by Sir John Palmer (Vice Lord Lieutenant of Devon).  
Mrs David Napier was in attendance.

## Birthdays today

Dr Dannie Abse, poet, 69; Sir George Cardant, former vice-chancellor, University of Tuzman, 80; Miss Maria Charles, actress, 63; Dr David Drewry, director, British Antarctic Survey, 45; Professor S.E. Filer, former professor of government, 77; Mr William Franklin, actor, 66; Miss Gina Fratini, fashion designer, 61; Mr Colin Graham, opera director, 61; the Earl of Guilford, 59; Sir James Harty, former chairman, Foreign Compensation Commission, 81; Professor Sir Frederick Holliday, former vice-chancellor, Durham University, 57; Mr Graham Jones, headmaster, Repton School, 48; Miss Deborah Levin, principal, Trevelyan College, Durham University, 53; Professor Norbert Lynton, art historian, 65; Sir Charles Mander, company chairman, 71; Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman, Slough Estates, 55; Lord Moran, 68; Captain Mark Phillips, equestrian trainer, 44; Lord Saye and Sele, 72; Mrs Fay Weldon, writer, 61; Sir John Wicks, former president, Law Society, 55; Lord Younger of Prestwick, 61.

## Memorial concert

**Mr Sydney Harpley**  
A memorial concert for Mr Sydney Harpley was held yesterday at the Royal Academy of Arts. The speakers were Sir Roger de Grey, President of the Royal Academy, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, Mr Chris Beedles and Mrs Harpley, widow.  
Dr David Jankovits and Miss Nicola Cleary (violin), Miss Yuki Kawara (piano) and Mr Richard Banning (cello) performed Handel's *Sonata Op 5 No 2*, Debussy's *Sonata for Violin and Piano* and Beethoven's *Viola*.

## Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will visit the headquarters of Marie Stopes International at 62 Grafton Way, W1, at 10.15 am, as Patron of the Year of Dance (1993), will attend a luncheon at the Arts Council of Great Britain, 14 Great Peter Street, at 12.30.  
Princess Margaret, as Patron of the Royal College of Nursing, will attend a reception and dinner at the Savoy Hotel at 7.45 and present the Nursing Standard/Bupa Nurse 92 Award.  
The Duke of Gloucester, as Honorary President of the Scottish Society of Architect Artists, will open the annual exhibition at the Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, at 2.35.  
The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the London Philharmonic, will attend a fund-raising gala concert at the Festival Hall at 7.25.

Princess Alexandra will present the Royal Humane Society's Testimonial on Velum to No 291 (Covbridge) Squadron Air Training Corps at Covbridge, South Glamorgan, at 2.50; and will visit the PDSA shop at 229 Covbridge Road East, Cardiff, at 3.50.

## Luncheon

**Rotary Club of London**  
The American Ambassador was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Marriott Hotel. Mr Neville Shulman, president, was in the chair. The Ambassadors of France, Belgium, Greece, Luxembourg, Bulgaria and Senegal attended.



Robert Holland, of Cummoek, Strathclyde, kissing his prize-winning onion — at 11lb 2oz said to be the biggest in the world — at the National Kelsae Onion Festival in Harrogate, North Yorkshire

## Vote on women priests

## Church curb on public at key debate

By RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

FEMINISTS in the Church of England have criticised the allocation of tickets for members of the public to watch the decisive vote on women priests in November.  
After allocating tickets to synod members and the press, only 20 seats remain for the public to watch the established church vote on one of the most significant decisions it will take this century.  
Monica Furlong, a feminist theologian, writing in this week's *Church Times*, criticises the lack of space. She says: "I am concerned that, uniquely in the history of

debates in general synod, there will not be public access to the debate.  
"It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the church wishes to conduct this debate as far as possible under wraps, maybe because it fears some outbreak of spontaneous feeling, or (I would like to think) because it feels some shame at having its prejudices once again exposed to public view."  
She said the people who had toiled for years against or for women priests deserved to be present at the debate.  
One synod member is auctioning a ticket she won in a ballot to raise money for her church roof. The Movement for the Ordination of Women

has booked rooms in the Methodist Westminster Central Hall, opposite Church House, the headquarters of the Church of England. Supporters of women priests will be invited to watch the debate and vote on November 11 on live television.  
A spokesman for the church said it was untrue that the public will be denied access to the debate and vote.  
The Rev Eric Shegog, director of communications, said: "The problem is simple. We cannot get everyone in who would like to be there." All 566 synod members will not fit in the debating chamber and have been allocated 90 seats in the public gallery,

which has 192 seats. A room has been set aside at Church House where the debate will be televised for those who cannot be accommodated in the gallery.  
The debate will be broadcast live on BBC2 and Radio Four. The former Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, has said that the ordination of women priests could become a fundamental belief with the status of being necessary for salvation, while "radical or heretical interpretations of the formularies continue to quarrel."  
Dr Leonard was speaking at the annual conference of the Prayer Book Society.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr P.J. Ballour**  
and **Miss M.V. Parris**  
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.C. Ballour, of Backwell, Bristol, and Mary, elder daughter of Commander and Mrs A. Parris, of Gillingham, Dorset.  
**Mr A.J. De Costa**  
and **Miss A.D. Walsh**  
The engagement is announced between Alan, elder son of Squadron Leader and Mrs F.A. De Costa, of Lincoln, and Alison, only daughter of Dr and Mrs G.P. Walsh, of Blackburn, Lancashire.  
**M. H. Fèvre**  
and **Miss E.C.L. Barendse**  
The engagement is announced between Hubert, elder son of M and Mrs Philippe Fèvre, of Veyrier-Lac, France, and Eleanor Catherine Lindsey, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Barendse, of Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire.  
**Mr P.A.C. Hammond**  
and **Miss E.C.L. Drake**  
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Hammond, of Ewelham, Hampshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Tom Drake and the late Monica Drake, and stepdaughter of Sonia Drake, of Caer-Ogo, Porthmadog, Gwynedd.  
**Sir William Harris, KBE**  
and **Mrs C.R.M. Bishop**  
The engagement is announced between Sir William Harris, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Mrs Rachel Bishop (née Goucher), of East Carlton, Market Harborough, widow of Mr R.W. Bishop, OBE.  
**Mr G.J. Patterson**  
and **Miss S.J. Robertson**  
The engagement is announced between Graham, only son of Mr Peter Patterson, of Wistonbury Green in Sussex, and Mrs Betsy Patterson, of Blackheath, London, and Sue, elder daughter of Mr Robbie Robertson, of Christow, Devon, and the late Mrs Marian Robertson.

## Marriages

**Mr L.F. Cassidy**  
and **Miss M.M. Peterson**  
The marriage took place on Friday, September 18, at St Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, London, of Mr Jamie Cassidy, son of Mr and Mrs John Cassidy, of Hale Barnes, Cheshire, to Miss Paula Peterson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Peterson, of Cambridge, Canon Vale, Oxfordshire.  
The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Jennifer Daly, Amanda Cassidy, Alexander Daly and Jonathan Scudder. Mr John Cassidy was best man.  
The reception was held at Seary's and the honeymoon will be spent in Venice.

## Meeting

**Royal Over-Sea League**  
Mr Martin Goff was the guest speaker at the opening meeting of the autumn session of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Over-Sea League held yesterday at Over-Sea House, St James's. Mrs Elizabeth Cresswell presided.

**Dinner**  
**National Sporting Club**  
Mr Tom Graveney was the guest of honour at a dinner given by the National Sporting Club last night at the Café Royal to mark his birthday (June 16).  
Mr Bob Willis, chairman, presided. Sir Colin Cowdrey, Mr Tim Rice and Mr Michael Parkinson also spoke.

Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

The Sun has reported: who is not frightened? The Lord God has spoken: who will not prophesy?  
Amos 3: 8

## BIRTHS

**ADAMS** - On September 21st, 1992, a healthy baby boy, James, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Adams, a brother for Jessica.  
**BROWN** - On September 21st, 1992, a healthy baby girl, Hannah, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Brown, a daughter for Emily.  
**CHILVERS** - On September 18th, 1992, a healthy baby boy, Edward, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Chilvers, a son for William.  
**HALLOR** - On September 18th, 1992, a healthy baby girl, Charlotte, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Hallor, a daughter for Emily.  
**HAYES** - On September 18th, 1992, a healthy baby boy, James, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Hayes, a son for William.  
**LAIBERT** - On September 18th, 1992, a healthy baby girl, Laura, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Laibert, a daughter for Emily.  
**LOCKSTONE** - On September 20th, 1992, a healthy baby boy, James, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Lockstone, a son for William.  
**LONGMAN** - On September 18th, 1992, a healthy baby girl, Charlotte, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Longman, a daughter for Emily.  
**MANNERS** - On September 18th, 1992, a healthy baby boy, James, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Manners, a son for William.  
**MARTIN** - On September 17th, 1992, a healthy baby girl, Laura, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Martin, a daughter for Emily.  
**PICTON-TURNBULL** - On September 18th, 1992, a healthy baby boy, James, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Picton-Turnbull, a son for William.  
**ROGERS** - On September 17th, 1992, a healthy baby girl, Charlotte, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Rogers, a daughter for Emily.  
**SEELY** - On September 17th, 1992, a healthy baby boy, James, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Seely, a son for William.  
**THEODOR** - On September 17th, 1992, a healthy baby girl, Charlotte, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Theodor, a daughter for Emily.  
**WILLIS** - On September 17th, 1992, a healthy baby boy, James, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Willis, a son for William.  
**WORRELL** - On September 17th, 1992, a healthy baby girl, Charlotte, was born to Mr and Mrs J. Worrell, a daughter for Emily.

## ANNIVERSARIES

**NAYLOR-HARDY** - On September 22nd 1927, at All Saints Church, Cambridge, Lincolnshire, John Henry Treadgold to Alice Jane.

## DEATHS

**ALLISON** - On September 17th 1992, William Allison, aged 60 years, peacefully. Beloved husband of Marjorie and dearly loved father of Philip, Patrick and Gerald. Funeral service on Friday September 25th at 2.00 pm at St Paul's Church, London. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Horton General Hospital (ICU/Care) Fund c/o The Horton General Hospital, 122 Maudslayi Road, Banbury, Oxford.

## DEATHS

**ATKINSON** - On September 19th 1992, suddenly at the age of 87 years, Mr. John Atkinson, of 10, St. James's Place, London. Beloved husband of the late Mrs. Atkinson. Funeral service on Wednesday September 23rd at 11.00 am at St. James's Church, London. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Royal National Society for Blind Children, 10, St. James's Place, London. Tel: 0207 737733.

## DEATHS

**CLUTTERBUCK** - On September 16th 1992, at Brighton, Medwyn Laurie Clutterbuck, aged 87 years, much loved husband of the late Mrs. Clutterbuck. Funeral service on Wednesday September 23rd at 11.00 am at St. James's Church, London. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Royal National Society for Blind Children, 10, St. James's Place, London. Tel: 0207 737733.

## DEATHS

**EVANS** - On Saturday September 19th 1992 at Bromley Hospital, Bromley, Kent, aged 87 years, Mr. J. Evans, of 10, St. James's Place, London. Beloved husband of the late Mrs. Evans. Funeral service on Wednesday September 23rd at 11.00 am at St. James's Church, London. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Royal National Society for Blind Children, 10, St. James's Place, London. Tel: 0207 737733.

## DEATHS

**HOPKINS** - On September 20th peacefully at The Priory, Grace, Kent, aged 87 years, Mr. J. Hopkins, of 10, St. James's Place, London. Beloved husband of the late Mrs. Hopkins. Funeral service on Wednesday September 23rd at 11.00 am at St. James's Church, London. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Royal National Society for Blind Children, 10, St. James's Place, London. Tel: 0207 737733.

## DEATHS

**PERCIVAL** - On September 17th 1992, peacefully at the age of 87 years, Mr. J. Percival, of 10, St. James's Place, London. Beloved husband of the late Mrs. Percival. Funeral service on Wednesday September 23rd at 11.00 am at St. James's Church, London. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Royal National Society for Blind Children, 10, St. James's Place, London. Tel: 0207 737733.

## DEATHS

**TERRY** - On September 16th, peacefully, in hospital, Paul Terry, aged 87 years, of 10, St. James's Place, London. Beloved husband of the late Mrs. Terry. Funeral service on Wednesday September 23rd at 11.00 am at St. James's Church, London. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Royal National Society for Blind Children, 10, St. James's Place, London. Tel: 0207 737733.

## DEATHS

**WILLIAMS** - On September 17th, peacefully, in hospital, Mr. J. Williams, aged 87 years, of 10, St. James's Place, London. Beloved husband of the late Mrs. Williams. Funeral service on Wednesday September 23rd at 11.00 am at St. James's Church, London. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Royal National Society for Blind Children, 10, St. James's Place, London. Tel: 0207 737733.



OBITUARIES

INGE HENDERSON

Inge Henderson, a teacher of the Alexander Technique to performing artists, died on September 4 in London aged 72. She was born in Austria on March 6, 1920.

INGE Henderson, teacher of the Alexander Technique, a system of body awareness that helps people, particularly performing artists, to give of their best, advised many great names during her career. Born in Innsbruck, she was the second daughter of Baron Frederick von Schee, of a distinguished, ennobled Jewish family. Her mother was Anna Schindler, a well-known actress at Vienna's Burgtheater and a cousin of Alma Mahler. Her childhood was spent amid Vienna's cultural purple, the house full of artists of all sorts, especially musicians. Early in the 1930s her mother decided to emigrate, eventually settling in England, the lure being its "progressive" schools. At 13, Inge, already polyglot in Italian, French and, of course, her native



German, was soon to acquire a remarkable command of idiomatic English.

Initially trained as a dietitian, she was later to read medicine at Oxford. By then, she had married Bill Henderson, an architect, who was posted to the Middle East for

much of the second world war. Subsequently, she turned seriously to singing, having lessons here and there, when it became possible again, in Vienna.

Her experiences as an aspirant soprano led her to study the Alexander Technique, a psycho-physical method of controlling posture and the correct use of the body. Initially a pupil of Dr Wilfred Barlow, she decided to become a teacher herself, instructed by his wife, Marjorie, niece of the technique's founding father, F. M. Alexander. This became her life's work. After her marriage broke up in 1963, she concentrated wholly upon Alexandrianism. She was loosely connected with the Barlows for the rest of her career and introduced the technique in particular to performing artists, especially musicians.

Her list of pupils read like a roll-call of the great and good. The appointment of Alexander teachers to the Royal College and Royal Academy of Music and to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art could, at least partly, be ascribed to her example, and to her understanding of the pressures and stresses to which artists, young and old, are subject.

Her Highgate home, with its Bechstein piano associated with Edwin Fischer, a family friend, was much visited by musicians from the Continent, and was often used as a rehearsal studio. In later years, she travelled extensively, and was often to be found in a tent at the Barga Summer School of Opera in Tuscany. Later, she took under her wing the choral scholars of King's College, Cambridge, and the music scholars of Eton.

Strikingly handsome, with a personality to match, charismatic and commanding, Inge Henderson collected people, children as well as adults. Though not a woman to trifle with, her heart was big, quite unfazed by pretension and empty convention.

She is survived by her daughters, Tessa and Kathy.

Henry Galton Darwin, CMG, a leading member of the London conference on Yugoslavia, died on September 17 aged 62. He was born on November 6, 1929.

WHEN Lord Carrington was looking for an international lawyer to join his European peace mission to Yugoslavia, the name of Henry Darwin topped the list. He was tailor-made, it was said, for the task ahead. Darwin had not long retired from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as second (in effect the deputy) legal adviser, after a distinguished career in Whitehall. He had served at the United Nations and in Bonn and was an experienced international negotiator. After being present at the birth of the law of the sea conference, he had worked for the European Commission secretariat in Brussels at a formative time in the development of European external policy. He had also contributed to an important report on the peaceful settlement of international disputes in 1966 and to another on frontier issues four years later.

Not only that, but Darwin was fascinated by both European history and maps (which together seemed to sum up the Balkan problem) and was a gifted linguist and philologist. Shortly after being plucked from retirement to join Lord Carrington, he was seen to emerge triumphantly from a bookshop clutching a volume entitled *Serbo-Croat at Your Fingertips*.

Darwin was to become a valuable member of the peace process, both under Lord Carrington and more recently Lord Owen. He became a chairman of one of the conference's working groups, that dealing with the succession of states' rights and obligations — a crucial issue when larger countries are split up. The subject was among those on which he was an authority and he was able to draw on a

HENRY DARWIN



wealth of knowledge and experience.

Darwin, who made two visits to Yugoslavia, including one (dressed in a black jacket) to Sarajevo, was under no illusions about the complexities. But he never gave up hope of a peaceful agreed solution. Few knew more about how to achieve this than he did.

Henry Darwin was born in Edinburgh, a great-grandson of the author of *Origin of the Species*; his father, Sir Charles Darwin, FRS, was an almost equally distinguished Cambridge scientist who had worked with Rutherford on splitting the atom, had been at one time master of Christ's College, Cambridge, and had ended up running the National Physical Laboratory in London.

His life too restrictive. Applying to the Foreign Office, he therefore joined as an assistant legal adviser in 1954.

He served at the British Embassy in Bonn, 1960-63, trying to work out restitution issues left over from the second world war and compensation claims involving British troops in West Germany. Then, after four more years in London, he was posted, at a month's notice, as legal counsellor to the UK mission at the UN in New York.

Three years after his return came another foreign posting, this time to Brussels as a director-general in the EC secretariat legal services. Britain had just been admitted to the Community and Darwin was one of those seconded to help fill the country's quota of EC appointments.

He spent the rest of his career, from 1976 onwards, in Whitehall, becoming second legal adviser in 1984 and retiring on reaching 60 five years later. He had to overcome the disappointment of missing the headship of his department. But he found solace in teaching the juniors coming up after him. He had a fine reputation as an instructor.

He contributed to both the *British Year Book of International Law* and the *American Journal of International Law* and had been planning to write his own book before collapsing while at work in the Foreign Office.

Fair-haired and 6ft 5ins tall, reticent, good humoured and kind, Henry Darwin was sometimes described as the archetypal Englishman. He loved poetry, especially Gerard Manly Hopkins, and music — particularly Mozart. He once said that if he were ever down to his last £100 he would spend it on a ticket to Glyndebourne. But his greatest pleasure of all came from his family.

He is survived by his wife, Jane, whom he married in 1958, and by three daughters.

APPRECIATIONS

Fransis Payne

READING the obituary notice of Fransis Payne (September 14) took me back to the late 1920s when one summer's evening a young man appeared at the door of my late father's vicarage at Llanllwch near Carmarthen.

This young fellow was none other than Fransis Payne, who had ridden his bicycle loaded with all his worldly goods, including many books, in two panniers. He had travelled from a parish in Cardiganshire, where he had been employed as a farm worker, bearing a letter to my father from the incumbent of his parish.

We offered him hospitality which he declined, preferring to bivouac in the vicarage grounds.

My father, Fransis and myself had long discussions well into the nights that fol-

lowed and he amazed us by his knowledge of Welsh history, which was self-taught, and at the same time he was learning Latin and Greek.

A job happened to be going at Spurrells, the printers at Carmarthen, for a proof reader revising a Welsh-English dictionary. My father saw great potential in this young man and, as he was friendly with Spurrell, Fransis was offered the work. Later, as autumn approached, he moved into an attic room at the printing works.

A year or so afterwards, a well-known antiquarian, one George Eyre Evans, offered him the post of curator of the Carmarthen museum where he catalogued the items. Here he had time to study Welsh folklore and the Welsh classics, preparing himself for Cardiff.

Kebble Thomas

Lt-Cdr Dennis Copperwheat

DENNIS Copperwheat (obituary, September 14) joined HMS *Indomitable* in the middle of 1951. It was a ship's company led by officers who had made their mark in the war: Vian, the last man to hoist the Union Flag whilst a seagoing commander-in-chief, the heroic captain, Manley Power and many others. It was not, however, a particularly happy ship because of the preponderance of unwilling sailors recalled to duty as a result of the Korean War.

Amongst this illustrious company, after more than 40 years I well remember the impact that the arrival of Lt-Cdr Copperwheat made on the lower deck. We were soon



aware of his humanity, leadership, cheerfulness and camaraderie. A shipmate to remember with gratitude and affection.

B. R. Outthwaite

Christopher Trace

IN FAIRNESS to the memory of Christopher Trace (obituary, September 9) and for the sake of his family and friends, could I nail once and for all the myth that Chris left *Blue Peter* because the BBC was concerned about his marital problems?

During the summer of 1967 Chris was asked to join a feature film company as writer, assistant director and production manager. After nearly nine years as a television

presenter this seemed an exciting development and an offer he felt he could not refuse.

He certainly did not leave under any kind of a cloud. Indeed, BBC Television's controller of programmes at that time was convinced *Blue Peter* would flourish without him. In fact, it was the film company that collapsed, leaving Chris jobless and minus his life savings — a tragedy from which he never fully recovered.

Biddy Baxter  
Editor, *Blue Peter*  
1962-68.

Dai Vernon

DAI Vernon (obituary, August 31) performed stage magic, but his own love was close-up magic, especially close-up card magic. The world of card magic is a small world, but in that world Dai was not only a genius, but the cause of genius in others.

Wherever he lived, New York, California or London, would become the centre of creativity in card magic.

Small worlds often contain

big egos; but Dai never seemed interested in the reputation of Dai Vernon — he was much too interested in magic.

Dai produced the best when required, but he would let his hair down — he would fumble and curse through some half-remembered trick in order to illustrate a point to a beginner. It was this infectious and unselfish enthusiasm that made him not only admired, but loved.

Alexander Elmsley

ADEL ROOTSTEIN

Adel Rootstein, who created the modern shop window mannequin, died on September 20 aged 62. She was born in Warmbaths, South Africa, in 1930.

THE HAND of Adel Rootstein can be seen in department store windows everywhere. Her achievement was to create a new generation of lifelike display mannequins, an important development for the fashion business and for the popular street-theatre of the shop window display.

Adel Rootstein used to say she came from a long line of Jewish refugees. She was born in the small South African spa town of Warmbaths, where her Russian parents had a small hotel, and came to London at 21. She got a job as a window-dresser in Aquascutum. Two years later she married her boss, Rick Hopkins, and started a small business in a basement in Earls Court making display department props.

It was the early 1960s and the haughty, warwork display mannequins of the day were out of step with the lively new fashions. So Adel Rootstein produced a new one, a mannequin modelled on Twiggy, skinny, coltish and flat chested. At last the fashion trade had a display mannequin that could wear a miniskirt with conviction. The Twiggy mannequin was a huge success and the reigning mannequins were doomed. They had broken the one rule that mattered in their world. They had



come out of date. Adel Rootstein's path was now clearly marked. She would make realistic mannequins modelled from life.

So the beautiful people of the day started peopling the shop windows — Sandy Shaw, Joanna Lumley, Janet Suzman, Joan Collins, Patti Harrison and Susan Hampshire, as well as modish young women from London society, Lady Caroline Percy, Lady Mary-Gaye Curzon, Lady Jacqueline Rufus Isaacs. The Duke of Northumberland did not object to his daughter Lady Caroline, taking up this unexpected line of work but asked her not to use her title.

New male mannequins were needed, too, so Patrick Lichfield, Simon Ward and Jeremy Brett found their replicas glowering at them through the plate-glass too. Adel Rootstein, diffident but persuasive, broke new ground in other directions. She claimed



Joan Collins, the actress, modelling for the mannequins made by Adel Rootstein in her likeness

to have made the first high fashion black mannequin and, a little later, the first oriental mannequin.

The figures were modelled from life and then cast in fibreglass. Wig-makers and make-up artists added the finishing touches and the final effect was eerily realistic. Rootstein's mannequins had navel and nipples and she paid particular attention to

body language. The figures stood, sat and lounged about as if leading an intense life of their own.

Her husband joined her at an early stage and before long they had factories, offices and showrooms in London and New York and agents all over the world. Adel Rootstein claimed to have 20 per cent of the world market.

She and her husband

owned the business entirely until this year when they sold it to Yoshichu Mannequins of Japan, a company that had been making Rootstein mannequins under licence for some years. Part of the contract was that the business should continue as before. The new owners accepted that Rootstein was no longer playing an active role.

What she was doing, in-

Latest wills

Mr Graham Stephen Paul Carden, of Westminster, stock broker with Cazenove and Company, left estate valued at £5,830,061 net. He left a charitable trust worth £648,000 and the remainder of the estate mostly to relatives.

Catherine Hilda Cole, of Edgware, north London, left estate valued at £1,300,800 net. She left the entire amount equally between the League of Friends of Edgware General Hospital, and the League of Friends of the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital, for the purchase of coaches, and St John Ambulance, to buy ambulances.

Sir Percival Joseph Griffiths, of Sunningdale, Berkshire, author and former Indian civil servant, left estate valued at £425,612 net.

Miss Margaret Pamela Hope, of Lower Basildon, Berkshire, left estate valued at £567,157 net. She left her residence and £181,000 to personal legacies and the residue equally between the Jockey Club Charitable Trust and the Racing Welfare Fund.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Geoffrey Williams, of Chippenham, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £637,509 net.

Mrs Edith Mary Peck, of Worthing, West Sussex, left estate valued at £852,368 net.

Sale room

Day the duke lost his hippo

By JOHN SHAW

SEBASTIAN Flyte of *Brideshead Revisited* may have kept his teddy bear until manhood but things have moved on since then. Aristocrats now send their nursery toys to Sotheby's.

That was how the Duke of Westminster's large cuddly hippo, wearing blue striped pyjamas, found itself in the stables yesterday in a 500-lot clearance sale of unwanted items from Eton Hall, the duke's family seat near Chester.

The duke, the richest man in Britain, bought it at a charity auction but, too big for the nursery at the newly restyled hall, the four foot high hippo became lot 377 estimated to make between £10 and £15.

It sold for £253 to Mrs Sue Metcalfe, promotions manager for Silent Night Beds in Colne, Lancashire.

The sale offered relics from all four stages of Eton's development ranging from the Gothic hall of 1825 to the Modernist house of

1973, which has recently been refaced in local pink sandstone to resemble a medium-sized French chateau.

The top price of the day was £18,700 for a George IV mahogany six-poster state bed in Gothic style by William Porden which was bought by an American (pre-sale estimate £10,000-£15,000). The bed was purchased on behalf of the Gerald Arthur Rolph Foundation of New York and will be going to Albion Park, near Knareborough, North Yorkshire, one of the most important Gothic Revival houses in Britain.

A white and inlaid marble chimney-piece carved with a relief of Diana the Huntress and her hounds went for £23,650 (pre-sale estimate £15,000 to £25,000). Twenty-two leaded and stained glass panels, some decorated with the Grosvenor arms, made £12,650 (estimate £10,000-£20,000).

The sale was estimated to make between £100,000 and £150,000 but totalled £203,166.

The Korhaus collection of rare Meissen porcelain, formed between the late 1940s and 1968 by a German couple took the honours in a £775,148 sale at Christie's.

The 68-lot collection covered Meissen from its earliest production in about 1710 to its great refinements of 1750 and was expected to fetch about £500,000. It made £613,910 in competitive bidding with only 19 items left unsold. Early white wares were in demand and a Bonner flared beak-ware from 1718 made £49,500 (£10,000-£18,000). A chinoiserie table-bell and stand from 1730 made the top price of £77,000 (£40,000 to £50,000). It was one of only a few of its kind to have survived intact.

A George Medal awarded to James Clark for heroism during the rescue of victims from the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster in July 1988 sold for £4,950 at Phillips in London. It was bought by the arts and recreation division of Aberdeen City Council.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Anne of Cleves, fourth wife of Henry VIII, 1515; Philip Dormer Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield, statesman and writer, London, 1694; Michael Faraday, chemist, London, 1791; Dame Christabel Pankhurst, suffragette, Manchester, 1880; Sir George Stapledon, pioneer of grassland science, North Devon, 1852; Erich von Stroheim, actor and film director, Vienna, 1885; Paul Mühl, actor, Leoben, Austria, 1895.

DEATHS: Johann Agricola, Lutheran reformer, Berlin, 1566; Ivan Vazov, poet, Sofia, 1921; Sir Charles Sandley, baritone, London, 1922; Frederick Soddy, chemist, Nobel laureate 1921, Brighton, 1956; Oliver St John Gogarty, surgeon and writer, New York, 1957; Irving Berlin, song writer, 1989.

The coronation of George III, 1761. Proclamation of the French Republic, 1792. 265 miners lost their lives in the Gresford pit (near Wrexham) disaster, 1934.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Michael Rodney Burr to be a circuit judge, assigned to the Wales and Chester Circuit.

Mrs Corinne Bennett to be the new English Heritage Cathedrals Architect, from November 1. Mrs Bennett, senior partner with Purcell Miller Tritton and Partners in Winchester, will deal with applications made under the cathedrals grant scheme and the care of cathedrals' treasure.

Professor Gillian Beer, Professor of English at Cambridge University, to be a trustee of the British Museum.

Mr Paul Judge, Professor Vicki Bruce, Mr Bill Daniel, Mr Norman Glass, Mr Jeremy Harrison to be members of the Economic and Social Research Council.

Church news

Church in Wales  
Diocese of St Asaph  
The Rev Charles Ian Day, Vicar of Minera, has been nominated as Vicar of Mold.

The Rev Dr John Richard Guy, non-stipendiary priest, diocese of Bath and Wells, has been nominated as Incumbent of Betws Cedewain, Tregynon and Llanyddelan.

Gun deck netted

Fishermen have trawled up a section of gun deck and ammunition believed to be from a seventeenth or eighteenth century warship off Dunwich, Suffolk.







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fuse revol  
Maastricht

● BUSINESS 17-24  
● LAW TIMES 27-29

# BUSINESS TIMES

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT  
30-34

Currency markets still in turmoil

## Pound slumps to record closing low

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE pound plumed new depths, despite a generally calmer mood, as currency dealers sought direction from France's Maastricht treaty and a confusing state of comments from finance ministers and central bankers.

The London stock market was 44 points ahead by 10am in expectation of an imminent base rates cut. But the Bank of England signalled no change, pricking the bubble. The FTSE 100 closed at 2,560.1, down 6.9. In the money market, the key three-month interbank rate softened to 9 per cent, a point below current base rates.

The French vote failed to

free the franc, the Danish crown and Irish punt from the pressure that built up within the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) after Britain and Italy pulled out of the parity grid last week.

In late trading, the punt, hurt by sterling's tumble, was quoted over two and half pence below its absolute ERM floor of DM2.6190, despite intervention. The lira remained under pressure and will not re-enter the ERM today, as originally planned.

The franc touched 3.423 to the mark, close to its ERM floor of 3.4305. But supportive comments from Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, plus intervention by the Bank of France, averted

any serious threat to the franc, which currency analysts now expect to escape devaluation.

With expectations of large cuts in base rates undiminished, sterling had no support. It dropped to DM2.5456 at the official 4pm London close. This record closing low represented a fall of almost six and half pence since Friday and one of almost a penny and a quarter since yesterday's opening.

Against an overall softer dollar, the pound lost ground, closing at DM1.7125, down almost a cent from the opening and more than 3 cents below Friday. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell to 83.5 at 11pm, its lowest since the index was rebased in 1989. It closed at 83.6, down 1.9 point since Friday.

Avinash Persaud, currency analyst at UBS-Phillips & Drew, said the market was now convinced that Britain will not be re-entering the ERM for the next 12 months at least, which is likely to cause the pound to overshoot on the downside. He expects it to be below DM2.50 by the end of this year, but some analysts foresee as low as DM2.20.

Herr Schlesinger's remarks on interest rate policy, which included reassurance that the Bundesbank was sticking to medium-term price stability, provided no clear guidance as to when German interest rates would be lowered.

In remarks that appeared directed at Britain, Herr Schlesinger said that the ERM does not need reform, as long as participants refrain from holding unfair expectations of their partners, including lowering interest rates.

The Dutch and Belgian central banks shaved their key lending rates slightly yesterday, reflecting reduced tension in the wake of the French referendum. Non-ERM Sweden also lowered its marginal lending rate to 50 per cent from the draconian 500 per cent imposed last week to defend the crown.

## Bundesbank chief backs the franc

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN WASHINGTON

HELMUT Schlesinger, the president of the Bundesbank, lent his endorsement yesterday to a concerted effort to rally support for the franc after the narrow Yes vote in France's referendum.

Speaking in Washington as currency traders reported heavy selling of the French currency against the mark, Herr Schlesinger said that the franc was not at present "particularly strong" but that it remained a "healthy and stable currency". He added that he saw "no great tensions" in the exchange-rate mechanism. The realignments and departures from the system last week had considerably reduced the pressures on the ERM, he added.

Herr Schlesinger's public support for the franc, which stood in contrast to the Bundesbank's frequently expressed scepticism about the pound and lira, was explained by German bank officials as a matter of economics, not politics.

The franc could not be described as unstable or overvalued against the mark, said one, since France had a current account surplus and lower inflation than Germany.

The Bundesbank's soothing comments about the franc reinforced upbeat statements in Washington by numerous European finance ministers, while the International Monetary Fund's policy-making interim committee called on members to "improve the balance" between their monetary and fiscal policies to facilitate a narrowing of interest rate differentials across the Atlantic. This appeared to be directed primarily at Germany.

Michel Camdessus, the IMF's managing director, said that America should begin to increase its rates as soon as its economic recovery was firmly under way. His comment was dismissed by American officials as unrealistic and irrelevant.

## IoD urges 8% interest rates

By PATRICIA TERAN

BRITAIN'S bosses are urging Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to cut interest rates to 8 per cent, blaming his failure to do so for the continued instability of sterling in the world currency markets.

Dr Ann Robinson, head of the policy unit at the Institute of Directors, said that the overriding priority was for the government to establish an economic policy. "It is important that the government takes firm action to show that it has an economic policy to get the British economy moving again."

She said the government has already left it "a bit late", saying interest rates should have been cut last week when Mr Lamont pulled the pound out of the exchange-rate mechanism.

Dr Robinson said: "The government has to have an economic policy. It is relying on the prop of the ERM, now it is on its own."

She added: "Business needs to see that the government has some policies."

Dr Robinson said the government needs to show it has a

real grip on current government spending and to make it clear that high pay demands from teachers and other public sector employees are "totally unacceptable".

The Institute of Directors is also calling for an independent Bank of England.

Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, said Britain is now "the sick man of Europe, with a rudderless government and a shattered economic base." He called for

an emergency summit for trade unions, employers and the government to tackle rising unemployment.

The Transport and General Workers Union's executive committee has produced a five-point recovery plan, including a cut in interest rates, increased spending on transport and investment in housing and construction.

Following a meeting yesterday, the Transport and General Workers Union's executive said: "The chaotic events of last week have left Britain with a government without an economic policy in the middle of the deepest recession in 60 years. The industrial base of our economy has been shattered in pursuit of an economic strategy which has now been abandoned."

Major's response, page 1  
Poll analysis, pages 2-3  
Nicholas Ridley, page 12  
Woodrow Wyatt, page 12  
Leading articles, page 13  
Letters, page 13  
Stock market, page 20  
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Fresh start, page 21



Robinson: need for action

## When money can't buy you money

By JON ASHWORTH

TOURISTS unlucky enough to have to visit a foreign exchange counter in the past few days will be relieved to learn that the financial world is returning to normal... slowly. But anyone travelling to Italy, Spain or France may find special measures are called for.

For the first time since bedlam broke out in the currency markets last Wednesday, tourist rates are being widely published once more. Yet with the markets the way they are, rates may be out of date by the time they are published in the morning newspapers.

Barclays Bank, which provides The Times with a daily guide to tourist rates, provided some quotations on popular currencies yesterday for the first time in nearly a week. But the bank insisted on a "risk warning" that rates could change

dramatically overnight. Barclays normally issues rates at 2.30 pm for publication the following morning. But the volatile trading conditions of the past few days have thrown the system into disarray.

A Barclays spokeswoman said: "Because rates are so volatile, we have not been setting them until 7.30 in the morning. We will go back to normal when things calm down."

One reader who called Barclays yesterday morning, wishing to change American dollars into French francs, was told he would not be able to do so. Barclays said: "That should not have happened; it isn't the case. We should be able to offer a full currency service like normal." However, Barclays is advising customers travelling to Italy, Spain or France to take local currency rather than travellers' cheques due to the volatile conditions.

Lloyds Bank issued its rates for the day

at 9.40 am yesterday, ten minutes late, but said there were no reported problems with customers wishing to change currency. National Westminster Bank reported no problems.

Some of the wildest currency swings were experienced on Thursday. Thomas Cook, the travel group, displayed rates throughout the day in its 334 branches but could only offer "rates on request" for the franc and lira due to the speed with which the market was moving.

Thomas Cook provides a fixed daily rate to Midland Bank Alliance & Leicester and other building societies, and has to absorb any resulting losses caused by currency swings. American Express requires customers to come into a branch before providing firm rates, but said it had not turned anyone away.

Tourist rates, page 16



Value for money aim: David Carter Johnson, right, with his buyout team, who will concentrate on casualwear

## Virgin and Dan-Air deny talk of merger

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

VIRGIN Atlantic and Dan-Air yesterday denied that they were in talks about a possible merger.

A spokesman for Richard Branson's airline said: "There has been no discussion between Virgin and Davies & Newman with regard to a merger of the two airlines, nor has Virgin received any proposal regarding such a merger or other equity participation."

David James, chairman of Davies & Newman, parent of Dan-Air, said the only talks he had had were "intermittent dialogues over the past two years." He added: "There are no dialogues in hand beyond such minimal levels, and certainly nothing which would justify talks of a merger."

Dan-Air is, however, pressing ahead with its attempts to find an airline, or financial institution, that would invest sufficient cash to enable the airline to continue operating its charter and scheduled services this winter and throughout next summer's peak holiday season. Those who have been approached, including British Airways, have failed to sign an agreement.

Mr James is likely to announce a pre-tax loss this year despite forecasts that the airline would make a profit.

One suggestion that was discussed with Mr Branson was that Virgin should create a short-haul European airline of its own using leased Dan-Air aircraft and slots that Dan-Air would then abandon at Heathrow and Gatwick. Mr Branson made it clear that he would not be prepared to spend much money on the venture, which he would take up only if others backed him. The scheme would have allowed Virgin to test the validity of running a short-haul service to feed passengers onto its more lucrative long-haul services.

Mr Branson applied to the Civil Aviation Authority for licences to serve Inverness, Maastricht and Athens, while holding talks with Dan-Air about a possible deal. As yet, there is no agreement.

## Sears gives up menswear and sells Fosters chain

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

SEARS, the Selfridges to Freeman Hardy & Willis and Saxone shoe shops group, has pulled out of menswear retailing. Its 350 Fosters and Your Price shops have been handed to their management in a deal that is actually costing Sears £40 million, and which Sears is helping to finance — it could end up with a 17.5 per cent stake in Fosters Menswear, the buyout vehicle.

Liam Strong, Sears's new chief executive, said the disposal of the menswear division was part of the group's "aggressive programme of recovery and development". He added: "The menswear business is relatively small and was not going to be an area of significant growth." In fact, it has been losing money for the past two years, running up a £9 million trading loss last year alone, on sales of £128 million, and a further £5.3 million in the first three months of this year.

The division has cost Sears

£30 million in cash outflow over the past 24 years. Mr Strong, former BA marketing director, said: "Even if we'd got it right, we'd have had only 2 per cent of the market, and that at the bottom end. We'd rather concentrate on sectors where we have the lead."

The menswear business is being acquired by its management, led by David Carter Johnson, the managing director, and Geoffrey Taylor, former group chief executive of Midland Bank, who will be non-executive chairman. Fosters Menswear is financed by Hambro European Ventures, with 40 per cent of the equity, and Sears itself, which is subscribing for convertible preference shares. The remaining 60 per cent of the ordinary shares will be split between the board and staff.

Mr Carter Johnson said his strategy will be to "strengthen Fosters' value for money reputation", concentrating on casual wear, and getting out of

suits and sportswear. Sears owns 94 of the properties from which Fosters trades, but these, in the books at £51 million, are excluded from the deal and will be sold by Sears as part of its property disposal over the next 12-18 months.

Of the £40 million extraordinary cost, £29 million relates to asset write-offs and £11 million to trading losses and redundancy payments. A further £42 million of goodwill, written off at the time of Fosters' acquisition, in 1985, is now being written off against the profit and loss account, in accordance with new accounting guidelines, and re-credited to reserves.

Adams and Millets, both part of the Fosters group acquired for £115 million in 1985, and both market leaders, are being retained. Mr Strong denied he was contemplating selling Selfridges, the flagship central London store.

Comment, page 21

### TODAY IN BUSINESS

#### MULTI-TIER



Wolfgang Münchau argues that a multi-tier system in Europe is a reality after the French yes vote and sterling's ERM suspension. Page 21

#### THINK SMALL

Smith New Court is extending its dealing service to cover a wider range of shares in smaller companies. Page 24

#### FAMILY TIME



TVS Entertainment has agreed to a £38.2 million takeover offer from International Family Entertainment. Page 19

#### MOVING UP

MAI, the money broking to media and information group, managed a 7 per cent rise in full-year profits. Tempos, page 20

#### LAW TIMES



David Pannick takes a look at the important issue of how to tackle sex discrimination in immigration law. Page 27

#### THE POUND

US dollar 1.7125 (-0.0310)  
German mark 2.5456 (-0.0644)  
Exchange index 83.6 (-1.9)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

#### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1887.8 (+2.6)  
FT-SE 100 2560.1 (-6.9)  
New York Dow Jones 3315.43 (-11.62)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 18066.24 (-100.56)

#### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10%  
3-month interbank 9.9-9.95%  
3-month eligible bills 8.5-8.55%  
US: Prime Rate 6%  
Federal Funds 3.5%  
3-month Treasury Bill 2.92-2.91%  
30-year bonds 98%-98.5%

#### CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£ \$1 7120 £ \$1 7123  
DM £2 5387 DM £1 4815  
SwF £2 2325 SwF £1 3005  
FF £6 6765 FF £5 0650  
Yen £12 07 Yen £123.68  
Index £3.6 Index £2.0  
ECU £3.774539 SDR £3.817207  
£ ECU 251090 £ SDR 1223880  
London Forex market close

#### GOLD

London: London Fixing  
AM \$348.25 PM \$349.10  
Close \$347.40-347.30  
COMEX 01-203.50  
New York: COMEX \$ 347.35-347.85

#### NORTH SEA OIL

Bront (Oct) \$20.20/bbl (\$20.35)

#### RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.0 August 1987-100  
\* Denotes monthly trading price

CAROL LEONARD

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## Debt provisions at Bristol & West cut profits by 65%

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

PROVISIONS for mortgage debt cut the profits of Bristol & West, the tenth largest building society by 65 per cent in the first half of the year.

The society reported yesterday profits of £13.1 million compared with £39.2 million in the same period last year. This is largely the result of the society quadrupling provisions from £7.2 million in the first half of last year to £29.7 million. In the year to December 1991 it had reported profits up 11 per cent despite the housing market depression.

The current figures also reflect the society's adoption of the standard way of providing for interest loss. Last year it was hidden in net interest receivable and provisions were stated as £2.9 million.

In the past the Bristol & West has made lower provisions than other societies of similar size but it denies that it underprovided in previous years. On December 30 it took over the ailing Cheshunt Building Society and for the first time its provisions take account of the mortgage book



FitzSimons pessimistic

of the smaller society. The repossessed properties of the Cheshunt are concentrated in the South East and reflect the poor housing market there.

Management expenses also increased by more than 10 per cent from £50.3 million to £55.6 million. Tony FitzSimons, chief executive, said this was partly the result of absorbing the Cheshunt's management expenses, the

cost of its new financial centres and expanding its debt management service. He is pessimistic about the short term property market. There are 150,000 to 200,000 properties overhanging the market that must be sold before normal conditions return, he said.

Sir John Wills, chairman, said: "The board has comprehensively reviewed its requirements for provisions in accordance with current and emerging best industry practice. In the light of a continuing high level of mortgage arrears, a sharp reduction in the value of repossessed houses and future market uncertainties, provisions have been substantially increased. The society is also continuing to address the level of management expenses, the growth of which reflects mainly the consequences of earlier decisions to invest in new facilities and expand into new markets."

"It may be that there is now an opportunity for the government and the industry to address the underlying malaise in the housing market."



Bouncing back in style: Michael Harris, Helene chairman, announcing a profit rise

## Helene flourishes in fashion

By MICHAEL TATE

AN ABILITY to switch its sourcing to take advantage of the best available prices enabling Helene, the clothing supplier, to overcome the economic conditions.

Turnover rose from £33.2 million to £36.7 million in the first half of 1992, was still climbing in July and August

and is encouraging boardroom hopes that it could continue to increase in the remaining months of the year.

Profit margins have improved, and pre-tax earnings, sharply down a year ago, have improved from £706,000 to £812,000. In the absence of extraordinary items, net earnings have surged 26.7 per cent to 0.71p a share. The board is

paying an unchanged interim of 0.65p a share, as forecast at the time of the June £4.58 million share issue.

The funds were raised to finance expansion. Michael Harris, the chairman, said the group's strengths were its sales and sourcing abilities, which allow it to produce throughout the world at the best possible prices.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### BCCIHK starts to unfreeze deposits

THE Hong Kong arm of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International has started to send cheques to its 35,000 depositors whose funds have been frozen since the bank was closed more than a year ago.

The Bank of Credit and Commerce Hong Kong, closed in July 1991 amid a global financial scandal, is returning all funds to those who had US\$12,820 or less in its vaults. Larger depositors are to be sent an initial cheque for 41 per cent of their money. The payments are in line with a proposal accepted by the Hong Kong bank's creditors on September 1 and approved two weeks later by the colony's Supreme Court. A bank spokesman said large depositors would eventually receive 70 per cent to 75 per cent of their funds back, but that may take several more years.

### Ross surges ahead

ROSS Group, the rejuvenated car security and packaging group, announced a leap in pre-tax profits from £101,000 to £1.35 million for the six months to end-June. The figure includes a full six-month contribution from Stellar, the car alarms company acquired by the group for £10.8 million in November last year. Group turnover was up nearly three times, from £8.5 million to £23.5 million. Earnings of 0.73p compare with a 0.15p loss per share for the first half last year. The interim dividend was raised from 0.15p to 0.2p. The shares fell 1p to 25p.

### EC jobless unchanged

UNEMPLOYMENT in the European Community was 9.5 per cent in July, unchanged from June but still at its highest level since 1988, according to Eurostat, the EC's statistical agency. It estimated the number of unemployed at 14 million. The number of unemployed has risen 50 per cent in Denmark, 33 per cent in Britain, and between 5 and 10 per cent in the Republic of Ireland, France and Italy. It has fallen 30 per cent in the Netherlands, and between 15 and 20 per cent in former West Germany, Spain and Belgium.

### Tuskar meeting sought

TUSKAR Resources, now a cash shell whose shares were suspended in August at 1p, faces the prospect of a new direction and a changed board. John Lord, a Dublin stockbroker, has requisitioned an extraordinary meeting to remove certain directors. He intends to redirect the business away from natural resources interests. Tuskar says his plans are not in the best interests, and that the board's energies would be better directed towards having Tuskar's shares relisted. The date for the EGM has to be decided.

### Microvitec in profit

MICROVITEC, the information systems and services group that took over Logitek, a rival computer company, last year, is back in profit. The highly geared group made a pre-tax profit of £62,000 in the six months to end-June (£2.2 million loss). Turnover doubled to £25.5 million (£12.5 million) on the back of the Logitek acquisition and gearing, which peaked at 84 per cent in December, remains at 72 per cent. Earnings per share are 0.1p (loss 4.8p) and there is no dividend (nil).

### Alchem agrees offer

UNITED Drug, the Dublin pharmaceutical distributor, is making an agreed offer for Alchem, the largest pharmaceutical wholesaler in Northern Ireland. The offer values Alchem at £5.16 million (£5.30 million). The deal will create a group with a turnover of £11.10 million and pre-tax profits of almost £3.5 million, making it the largest pharmaceutical wholesaler in Northern Ireland and the republic and one of the largest in the UK. United Drug is offering 13 new shares for every 8 existing Alchem shares.

### Russell group falls

ALEXANDER Russell, the Glasgow quarrying group in which Royalty Finance, a Swiss-registered Arab consortium, holds a 15.67 per cent stake, says weaker demand for building materials saw pre-tax profits fall from £908,000 to £621,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover was higher at £18.7 million (£18.2 million). The interim dividend is held at 1p a share. Net earnings were 0.68p (1.4p) a share.

### Dinkie Heel steps up

DINKIE Heel, the toecap and shoe-repair products maker, lifted pre-tax profits from £90,000 to £110,000 in the six months to end-June. Additional exports helped to lift turnover to £3.4 million compared with an adjusted level of £2.9 million after stripping out turnover of £701,000 relating to the Enterprise Group that was sold in 1991. Earnings per share were 0.67p (0.55p). The interim dividend is maintained at 0.35p a share.

## Job prospects still poor, says survey

By PATRICIA TEHAN

ANY marked improvement in job prospects is still some way off, and staffing levels are likely to carry on falling between now and the end of the year, particularly in London and the South of England, according to Manpower.

A survey of employment prospects from the recruitment consultant says the effect of recession on jobs is becoming geographically more uniform. Nationally, 18 per cent of the 2,028 organisations that responded to the survey are forecasting a decrease in staffing levels in the last quarter of the year, compared with 17 per cent forecasting an increase, a net balance of minus 1 per cent.

Although this is a slight improvement on last year, when there was a net balance of minus 3 per cent, confidence has fallen since the spring, when a positive balance of 6 per cent of companies forecast that staffing levels would rise.

London and the South are still suffering the most. A negative balance of 5 per cent of companies in the home counties expect more job losses and a net 3 per cent of employers based in London expect to lose staff. The figures

are, however, more favourable than last year, when a net 9 per cent balance of London employers forecast job losses.

The biggest improvement comes from firms in the North East, where a net balance of 7 per cent expect to recruit staff, compared with 33 per cent expecting to cut jobs at the same time last year.

Jobs in public building and local government are still falling, though prospects are brighter than last year. Manufacturing employers, including the chemicals sector, are more positive. The services sector, transport and distribution have seen the biggest improvement in prospects with a net 11 per cent of employers expecting to create jobs. Insurance companies are also hoping to recruit, but banks expect further job losses.

The North West is the worst affected region, a net balance of 12 per cent (5 per cent of employers expect to cut jobs). In Scotland, this quarter, a net 4 per cent (2 per cent balance of companies hope to create jobs). In South Wales, employers are similarly hopeful, a net 4 per cent balance forecasting an increase, compared to a net 1 per cent forecasting a decrease last year.

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# TVS board backs £38m bid from US family group

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

TVS Entertainment, the television broadcasting group that last year failed to win a franchise for the South and South East of England, is unanimously recommending shareholders to accept a takeover offer from America's International Family Entertainment (IFE) group.

IFE, which is owned by Pat Robertson, the evangelist, and his son Tim, approached TVS "some months ago" and has now made a bid worth £38.2 million.

IFE has already received acceptances from certain TVS shareholders in, including France's Compagnie Générale des Eaux, giving it 31.3 per cent of TVS's voting rights, though the deal can only be formally concluded next January, when TVS's current broadcasting licence expires.

TVS shareholders are being offered either 0.041195 of B

common stock in IFE for each TVS share held, valuing each TVS share at 23p, or 23p in cash. TVS shares yesterday rose from 18½p to 21p, having earlier traded at 27p. IFE shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, but not in London. The deal is seen as sensible for both parties.

MTM Entertainment, holder of the rights of *Hill Street Blues*, which TVS bought for £191 million in 1988, has proved a cash drain on the company. In the six months to end-June, MTM reported a pre-tax loss of £5.7 million (up from a £2.4 million loss in the first half of 1991). TVS says it is not appropriate to commit more substantial funds to MTM for new speculative production in America.

Rudolph Agnew, the TVS chairman, said: "During the course of 1991 and earlier this year, the directors explored with a number of parties the possibility of selling MTM. Those discussions were inconclusive but at no time was there a prospect of achieving an acceptable price."

IFE owns and operates The Family Channel, an advertising-supported cable television network that reaches 54 million of a possible 59 million cable households, representing 92 per cent of all cable households and 59 per cent of all television households in America. IFE will use MTM's libraries to extend its interests in America, and is expected to use its TVS platform in Maidstone, Kent, to develop planned European channels.

TVS added yesterday it earned pre-tax profits of £7.6 million in the six months ended June, against a loss of £10.9 million, but that it still had a deficit on the profit and loss account that prevents the payment of dividends.



Looking to the future: Rudolph Agnew, chairman of TVS Entertainment, considered selling MTM this year

## Bryant bucks trend with 97% advance

BY MATTHEW BOND

BRYANT Group has bucked the dismal trend in results from housebuilders with a 97 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £20.3 million for the year to end May.

There was a 25 per cent increase in the number of houses sold, and Chris Bryant, chairman, described the result as a "notable achievement". Nor had the company relied on sales incentives or part exchange deals to boost sales. "Our policy continues to be to offer a well designed and constructed product in good locations at a realistic selling price."

Bryant's average selling price fell from £90,000 to £86,000, and stands about £23,000 above of selling prices three years ago.

Operating profits from the

housebuilding division rose 73 per cent to £15.6 million and were struck after £2 million of land bank provisions. Despite buying 800 new plots, the company continued to benefit from the £38 million rights issue two years ago. Gearing rose from 5 per cent to 8 per cent. The final dividend stays at 3.4p, for a maintained total of 4.8p.

Construction had a particularly good year, with operating profits rising from £2.6 million to £4.6 million. Sales from the group's commercial property division were £24 million. Provisions of £3 million were taken against the group's remaining properties, which have a balance sheet value of £52 million.

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## Charterhouse report played down by RBS

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

ROYAL Bank of Scotland is playing down reports that it is close to a sale of its Charterhouse merchant banking arm to a French-led consortium.

Charterhouse has been for sale since early this year, but speculation at the weekend that a sale was expected soon was "over the top", sources said in Edinburgh. The reports said that the consortium was headed by Crédit Commercial de France (CCF), the French bank.

Royal confirmed yesterday that discussions had taken place with "a number of interested parties, which may or may not lead to an offer being made for all or part of the capital of Charterhouse". It added that no announcement was imminent. Royal

shares closed unchanged at 163p. Charterhouse was originally put on the market to enable it to develop its European business.

CCF already has a close relationship with Royal through the Edinburgh-based bank's Inter-bank On line System.

Royal is thought to be worth between £200 million and £250 million compared with net assets of about £180 million, but analysts were unimpressed with the possibility that it might soon lose one of its more highly regarded subsidiaries. Hugh Pyle, an analyst at Robert Fleming Securities, said that a sale price of below £225 million would be disappointing, and he expressed doubts about the wisdom of the disposal.

## Opec and BP moguls battle against EC

BY GEORGE SIVELL

THE chief executive of British Petroleum and the general secretary of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries have joined forces to dismiss the European Community's plan to impose taxes on oil imports to reduce the degree of global warming from carbon dioxide emissions.

Opec's Dr Subroto questioned the scientific assumption on which the global warming theory is based, while BP's David Simon agreed with Dr Subroto that the Community simply wanted to find a way of raising more money.

The European Community wants to slap the \$3 a barrel tax on oil imports from 1993 and raise it by \$1 a year until the year 2000. This could raise an estimated 60-65 billion euros, equivalent to £45 billion a year.

"We suspect (an energy tax) is not for environmental purposes, but more for collection of increased revenue," Dr Subroto said at the opening session of the World Energy Council's congress in Madrid. Mr Simon said he was not against taxes as such, "but I do object when taxation is justified on spurious or dishonest grounds." He added: "How many of the so-called environmental taxes which are proposed from time to time are merely an excuse for raising revenue? Or for protecting one fuel against another?"

Dr Subroto said: "Opec's views on the environmental issue are clear. We welcome any measures taken in the interests of securing a cleaner, more harmonious environment. But we deplore the politicisation of the issue and the imposition of measures based on questionable scientific evidence and prejudicial intentions."

"Is global warming indeed taking place? ... And, if so, is it due - in part, in its entirety or indeed at all - to fossil fuel burning?"

Mr Simon urged greater study of what he called "market-related instruments" to im-

prove the environmental record of the energy industry, instead of taxation. Whether we like it or not, investment cannot take place in industries whose profitability is destroyed by regulation or by taxation; or by consumers whose personal wealth suffers the ravages of taxation or non-existent economic growth."

The stakes, however, are high. No less an authority than Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the former Saudi oil minister who now heads the Centre for Global Energy Studies in London, has said the tax would cut demand for crude oil by 20 per cent.

The oil industry believes the energy tax would boost demand for alternative sources of energy, including hydro-electricity and windmills.

## News Corp expects more gains

RUPERT Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, said the international media group, which owns *The Times*, expected to repeat its performance in the year to end-June of improving profitability while its main markets endured recession. "We see substantial growth in earnings in the coming years - which could be accelerated if our economic prognostications prove to be pessimistic."

In his annual report, Mr Murdoch said that after raising A\$3 billion in cash, equity and long-term debt to strengthen its balance sheet, News Corp's pre-eminent goal was to achieve an investment-grade rating.

He said: "News Corporation is institutionally committed to the proposition that fortune favours the brave. We believe it, and we act on it, and it works for us. It requires more intense management discipline and a more penetrating creative insight."

## Edinburgh Fund falls to £1.9m

The combined effects of a slump in unit trust trading profits, lower interest rates and higher administrative costs have left first-half pre-tax profits at Edinburgh Fund Managers 23 per cent lower at £1.9 million for the six months to end-July.

Colin Ross, the chairman, gave warning that the decline in earnings for the full year is likely to be comparable with that in the first half. However, the company's strong cash position has allowed it to hold its interim dividend at 5p. It also intends to recommend an unchanged final of 8p.

The company won £100 million of new business in the six-month period, partially offsetting the impact of the fall world stock markets in sterling terms. As a result, funds under management declined only 3 per cent to £1.844 billion.

## Lloyd's offer

Lloyd's underwriters are offering a new product offering up to £50 million insurance protection against pension fund theft in the wake of the Maxwell scandal. The Lloyd's policy offers "first party" cover, allowing reimbursement once the underwriters have established that a theft has taken place and removing the need for civil legal action or a criminal conviction before payment can be made.

## Refuge rises

Refuge Group has reported a 14 per cent rise in long-term insurance premium revenues to £108 million for the six months to end June. Regular premiums rose 12 per cent to £17.9 million and single premiums 35 per cent to £26.5 million. General insurance premiums rose slightly from £6.5 million to £6.6 million. An interim dividend of 9.6p (9p) has been declared, costing £4.94 million.

## Shorts designs

Shors, the Belfast subsidiary of the Canadian aerospace group Bombardier, will design and manufacture the fuselage and tailplane of a new business jet, the Learjet 45, securing about 800 jobs. The contract has an estimated value of £100 million.

## Generators join the protest against new coal contract

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

GOVERNMENT hopes of persuading British Coal, the power generators and the electricity distribution companies to come to a quick agreement on a new coal contract appear to be fading as all sides begin to question the deal.

National Power and PowerGen are understood to have joined the regional electricity supply companies in voicing their concerns about the amount of coal they would be expected to take under the new contract and the price they would have to pay.

A new five-year contract, to replace the generators' contract with British Coal which runs out in March, was due to have been signed last Wednesday. But after two of the supply companies objected to it, others began to raise concerns.

Now the generators are raising their own objections, particularly over the volume of coal they are being asked to take. They are also concerned about their ability to pass on the supply companies at acceptable prices.

Meanwhile the supply companies are continuing to question the amount of power they would be expected to take under the deal and its price. They also want Offer, the electricity regulator, to recog-

nise the coal contracts officially and the price the companies will have to pay for coal-fired electricity.

Observers say the new coal contract is unlikely to be signed this week and could be delayed until after the Conservative party conference next month where Michael Heseltine, the trade and industry secretary, had hoped to unveil the government's privatisation plans for British Coal.

One source said there is a lot of "pushing and shoving" going on as the two sides press their cases.

He said two weeks ago it

seemed there was a chance of a quick signing of a heads of agreement for a five-year contract whereby British Coal would provide 40 million tonnes in the first year, decreasing to 30 million tonnes for the following four years. That compares with the 65 million tonnes supplied this year.

But after two of the supply companies questioned the deal, said the source, now "all sides seem to be finding difficulties in understanding what they are expected to take in terms of tonnage and price."

The government desperately needs to see the five-year contract signed if it is to begin its privatisation of British Coal on schedule as planned for the autumn.

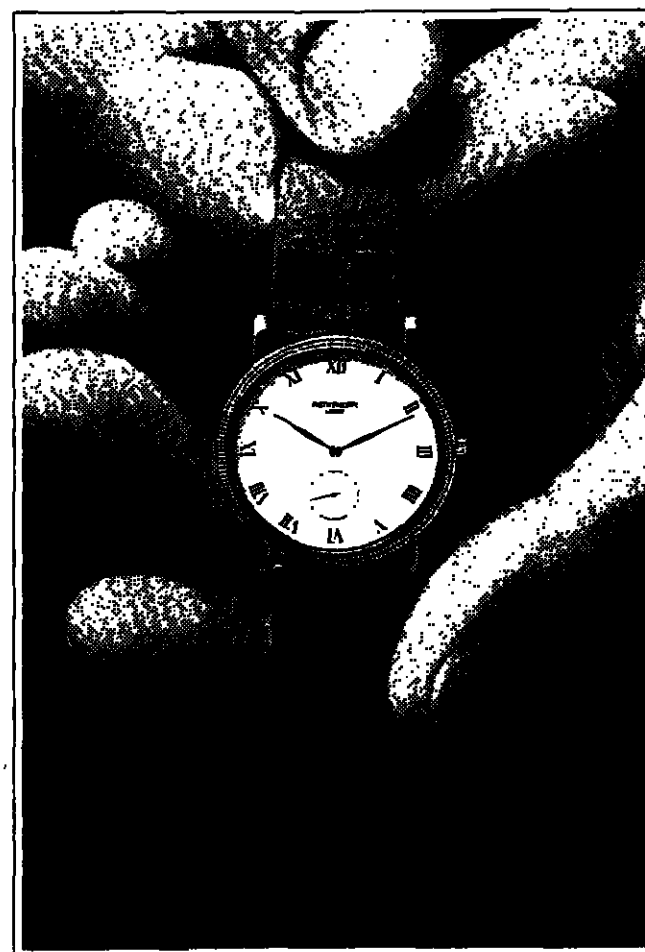
Talks on a new redundancy package for the tens of thousands of British Coal employees likely to lose their jobs before privatisation have also been held up.

The Treasury has been considering a new, more generous redundancy package, but a decision has been delayed after last week's withdrawal of the pound from the exchange-rate mechanism, intense criticism of the government's economic policy and renewed calls for a curb in public spending.



Heseltine: sell-off hopes

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a particular Patek Philippe movement requires four years of continuous work to bring to absolute perfection. We will take four years. The result will be a watch that is unlike any other. A watch that conveys quality from first glance and first touch. A watch with a distinction: generation after generation it has been worn, loved and collected by those who are very difficult to please; those who will only accept the best. For the day that you take delivery of your Patek Philippe, you will have acquired the best. Your watch will be a masterpiece, quietly reflecting your own values. A watch that was made to be treasured.

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INVESTORS continued switching out of the longer end and into shorts as the bond market faced up to another day of contrasting fortunes. The prospect of an imminent cut in bank base rates has seen the yield curve drop sharply, particularly at the short end where prices continued to make headway. Simon Briscoe, economist at Greenwell Montagu, said: "There is a growing realisation in the market that bringing down interest rates will provide a substantial benefit to the short end." But the pound's persistent weakness has led to concern about rising inflation. This left prices at the longer end of the market nursing falls of more than 1p, with Treasury 8½ per cent 2017 down 1½ at 95½/32. The opposite was the case in shorts where Exchequer 10½ per cent 1997 rose £2 to £106.

BRITISH FUNDS									
1992	High	Low	Stock	Price	±	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
SHORTS (under 5 years)									
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 1992	107½	+	12.46	1.1	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 1993	99	+	8.25	2.26	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 1994	107½	+	9.01	8.29	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 1995	100	+	12.12	5.34	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 1996	107½	+	13.01	8.37	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 1997	107½	+	8.21	8.43	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 1998	107½	+	8.10	8.30	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 1999	107½	+	9.78	8.44	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2000	107½	+	11.71	8.23	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2001	107½	+	10.68	8.30	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2002	107½	+	13.48	8.37	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2003	107½	+	9.27	8.68	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2004	107½	+	9.86	8.63	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2005	107½	+	11.22	8.62	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2006	107½	+	11.50	8.68	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2007	107½	+	9.02	8.60	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2008	107½	+	8.65	8.54	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2009	107½	+	11.75	9.68	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2010	107½	+	12.29	9.68	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2011	107½	+	12.85	9.68	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2012	107½	+	9.80	8.80	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2013	107½	+	11.54	9.24	1.1	1.1
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)									
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 1997	107½	+	8.76	8.26	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 1998	107½	+	12.19	8.23	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 1999	107½	+	7.28	8.42	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2000	107½	+	9.45	8.97	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2001	107½	+	10.68	8.30	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2002	107½	+	12.12	8.35	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2003	107½	+	9.27	8.94	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2004	107½	+	9.86	8.63	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2005	107½	+	11.22	8.62	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2006	107½	+	11.50	8.68	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2007	107½	+	9.02	8.60	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2008	107½	+	8.65	8.54	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2009	107½	+	11.75	9.68	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2010	107½	+	12.29	9.68	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2011	107½	+	12.85	9.68	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2012	107½	+	9.80	8.80	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2013	107½	+	11.54	9.24	1.1	1.1
LONGS (over 15 years)									
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2014	107½	+	9.40	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2015	107½	+	9.48	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2016	107½	+	9.18	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2017	107½	+	9.30	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2018	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2019	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2020	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2021	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2022	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2023	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2024	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2025	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2026	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2027	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2028	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2029	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2030	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2031	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2032	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100%	100%	Edinburgh 2033	107½	+	9.21	9.18	1.1	1.1
100%	100								



## TEMPUS

## MAI reaps devaluation benefit

RECENT turbulence in money and equity markets should have given MAI, the money broking and media and information group, a flying start to its current financial year.

Because it is the volume of money, rather than rates, that really counts, and since MAI has a high level of overseas profits and US dollar turnover in Britain, the group will also benefit from a devaluation of sterling.

MAI, where Lord Hollick, the Labour peer, is managing director, managed a 7 per cent pre-tax profit increase to £71.2 million in the year ended June, the fifth consecutive year of growth, on a turnover that was 8 per cent higher at £389 million. Of the pre-tax total, £44 million was generated by wholesale broking activities, against £39.6 million previously.

Results were helped by a rise from £7.9 million to £10.4 million of net interest, and net earnings that rose from £2.6p to £3.7p a share permit a rise in the total distribution from 5.5p to 6p.

Not everything went MAI's way last year and, however, Europe's leading outdoor and free-sheet advertising group in which a 15 per cent stake is held, was not left unscathed by the recession in Europe. But MAI did make money out of property — £3.4 million pre-tax, against £2.3 million a year earlier — and its financial information company won a number of new long-term supply contracts from which profits are expected to flow this year.

Looking into 1994, and MAI should be seeing profits starting from its 61 per cent of Meridian Broadcasting, which in the recent round of TV franchises won a broadcasting licence for the south and southeast of England, to be taken up in January. MAI plans a £30 million investment in Meridian.

MAI had year end net cash of £100 million, and pre-tax profits this year should advance to £80.3 million. At 126p, the shares trade on 8.1 times prospective earnings. They do not look dear.

## Brent Chemicals

BRENT Chemicals, the speciality chemicals group, is unabashed after making a £15.6



Fifth consecutive year of growth: Lord Hollick, managing director of MAI Group

million cash call in November and issuing a profits warning in January.

It hopes it demonstrated to shareholders that it knew what it was doing at the time. They should be better pleased with half-year pre-tax profits for the year to the end of June up by 39 per cent to £6.4 million and an effectively maintained dividend of 1.60p.

Indeed, Brent is contemplating further acquisitions in aerospace electronics or packaging: either one of £10 million or two of £5 million. Brent has a strong balance sheet, with £4 million of net cash, but that is likely to be whittled away by deferred payments for acquisitions.

The tax charge at Brent is down to a more usual 36 per cent, after it rose temporarily at the year end to 48 per cent because of an ACT problem. Earnings in the half year have risen from 4.4p to 5.3p.

On full-year forecasts of £12.5 million, against £5.2 million before tax for 1991, earnings are expected to rise from 2.9p to 10p. At least the expected same again full-year dividend of 7.3p will be covered this time.

The shares rose 8p to 140p yesterday after the results — high enough for now. At that level they yield a prospective 6.95 per cent and stand on a multiple of 14 times earnings. Yesterday's price compares with the one for four calls at 120p. But with a third of profits in Germany and a quarter in America, Brent will be hoping for help from the foreign exchanges, which cost £300,000 in the first half.

Although average selling prices fell from £90,000 to £86,000, the numbers sold rose 25 per cent to 2,330. With costs under tight control and land bank provisions falling from £8 million to £2 million, the division saw operating profits rise from £9 million to £15.6 million and operating margins from 5.7 per cent to 7.9 per cent.

Both construction and property generated cash, so the investment that swelled the land bank to 10,000 sites made a negligible impact on the balance sheet with net borrowings of £15.6 million giving gearing of 8 per cent.

Assuming 2,500 house sales, profits of £23 million look possible putting the shares at 90p on a multiple approaching 16. Quality and safety never come cheap.

For while Persimmon recently got it all wrong by opening new sites in anticipation of a recovery that never came, Bryant's solution was to increase activity at each site, relying on quality and competitive pricing to sell more houses. It worked.

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The shares rose 8p to 140p yesterday after the results — high enough for now. At that level they yield a prospective 6.95 per cent and stand on a multiple of 14 times earnings. Yesterday's price compares with the one for four calls at 120p. But with a third of profits in Germany and a quarter in America, Brent will be hoping for help from the foreign exchanges, which cost £300,000 in the first half.

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## Lively trading as investors pin hopes on base rate cut

SHARE prices experienced another volatile session with investors continuing to pin their hopes on a cut in bank base rates this week.

Speculation in the Square Mile centres on a one-point cut to 9 per cent, but the Chancellor did not appear to be in any rush yesterday to make the move.

After a cautious start to the new two-week trading account, with 15 companies among the top 100 going ex-dividend, share prices recovered, and before long the FTSE 100 index saw a rise of more than 44 points in anticipation of cheaper money.

But after the Bank of England indicated that there would not be any cut in interest rates, for the time being at least, prices came off the boil as the market gave further consideration to the narrow majority of the "yes" vote in the Maastricht referendum on the European treaty.

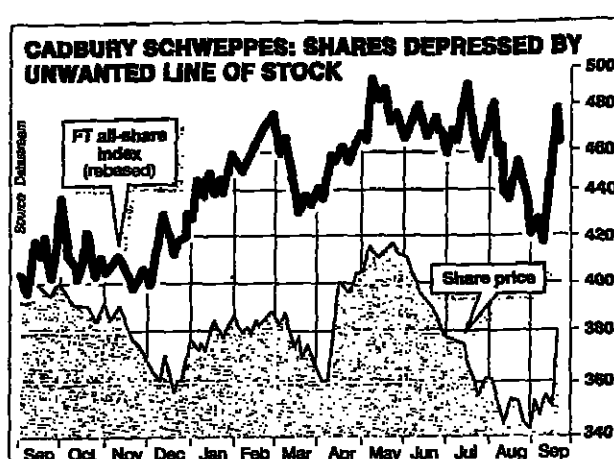
By late afternoon the index had lost all its previous gains and was nursing a loss of 13 points as Wall Street also kicked in lower after the weekend break. The index eventually closed off the bottom, 6.9 lower at 2,560.1.

Turnover again reached a healthy level with 953 million shares changing hands. There are still plenty of buyers although they are finding the going far from easy.

Market-makers are under intense pressure to cover existing short positions. They are trying to force prices lower in order to cover those positions. Because of the stock shortages, the bulls are finding it increasingly difficult to trade in any significant size.

The stock shortages are becoming increasingly apparent among the big dollar earners with further gains for Wellcome, 9p to £12.37, Wellcome, 30p to 963p, Boverat, 20p to 813p, Bass, 14p to 570p, Guinness, 23p to 538p, ICI, 18p to £11.55 and Lasso, 12p to 160p.

However, there are signs that some institutions are prepared to release stock and take profits after the strong gains of the past few days. A large programme trade was recorded in late trading that succeeded



CADBURRY SCHWEPPE'S: SHARES DEPRESSED BY UNWANTED LINE OF STOCK

ed in depressing the rest of the market as a number of large lines of stock went through the market.

These included 1.2 million Fortis, down 7p at 154p, 1.2 million BPI, up 4p at 218p, 1.2 million BT, 5p better at 352p, 1 million British Gas, 4p firmer at 235p, 1 million British Steel, up 3p at 67p, 2.5 million Burton Group, down 1p at 40p, 1.7 million Regalian Properties, 4p harder at 4p, 1.4 million Perkins Foods, 2p cheaper at

the opposite and switch into Rank.

TVS Entertainment returned from its brief suspension 24p better at 21p after announcing terms of an agreed bid from IFE, the US cable television company. IFE is offering £38 million for TVS.

Tony Brook, TVS managing director, said the group had not entered into takeover talks with other parties. TVS returned to the black at the halfway stage, announcing a

European Motor Holdings firmed 1p to 74p, helped by a strong buy recommendation from Wise Speke, the stockbroker. It reckons the group's strong management will get the best out of recent acquisitions and this will provide a strong boost to earnings. This has, so far, failed to be reflected in the share price, which has underperformed the market by 15 per cent in the past year. Wise Speke expects the trend in the price to be reversed during the next six months.

53p, and 1.4 million Rascal, 24p better at 65p.

Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery and soft drinks group, was a dull market after the shares went ex-dividend. But the price was further depressed by claims that a large line of stock, possibly amounting to 5 million shares, was overhanging the market.

Rank Organisation was a firm market, gaining 7p to 546p despite whispers that one broker has downgraded its profit estimates for the group and is urging clients to switch into Thorne EMI, 2p higher at 747p. Henderson Crossroads, the stockbroker, has been urging clients to do

pre-tax profit of £7.6 million compared with a loss last time of £10.9 million. The group is due to lose its independent television franchise at the end of this year.

T. Cowie, the motor distributor that recently lost a battle to win control of rival Henlys, firmed 2p to 141p. Tom Cowie, chairman, has sold 1 million shares worth an estimated £1.38 million. It reduces his holding in the company to 8 million shares, or 6.35 per cent.

Bryant Group, the house-builder, climbed 5p to 90p after bucking the trend and reporting full-year figures showing little signs of recession. Pre-tax profits were dou-

bled at £20 million after the sale of 2,330 houses, an increase of 25 per cent on the previous year. The average price of a Bryant home fell 5 per cent to £86,000.

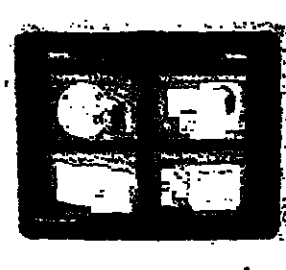
There was selective support for the rest of the building sector amid mounting hopes that the expected cut in bank base rates will be enough to pull the industry out of recession. This was also in spite of fears that the government is ready to make further cuts to public spending.

Gains were witnessed in Amerc, 7p to 80p, Abbey, 5p to 65p, Ashted, 5p to 95p, Barcom, 3p to 92p, Bellway, 9p to 225p, Bellwinch, 2p to 11p, Crest Nicholson, 2p to 34p, Higgs & Hill, 2p to 41p, How Group, 3p to 26p, Alfred McAlpine, 6p to 80p, Persimmon, 3p to 186p, an ex-dividend form, Tilbury Douglas, 29p to 433p, Westbury, 4p to 54p, Wilson Connolly, 5p to 119p and George Wimpey, 7p to 104p. John Laing A was another firm market, climbing 12p to 160p after going ex-dividend.

The building supply companies also attracted support in the belief that a move to lower interest rates will stimulate the industry. Meyer International added 17p to 210p, Travis Perkins 15p to 131p, Wickes 2p to 82p, Wolseley 8p to 371p, Anglian Group 6p to 198p, Baggeridge Brick 3p to 56p, CRH 8p to 225p, Hepworth 3p to 91p, Heywood Williams 16p to 170p, Istock Johnson 4p to 55p, Marley 6p to 91p, Marshall 5p to 63p, Newman Tunks 9p to 103p, Pilkington 2p to 90p, Spring Ram 5p to 140p, Ragby Group 6p to 205p ex-dividend, and Tarmac 5p to 70p.

Banks lost some of their recent sparkle. Barclays eased 2p to 344p, Lloyds 14p to 435p, National Westminster 12p to 334p, Abbey National 24p to 300p, Standard Chartered 1p to 437p, and TSB Group 7p to 132p. But there was selective support for HSBC, 9p up at 399p, Allied Irish, 7p up at 175p, and Bank of Ireland, 5p higher at 168p.

MICHAEL CLARK



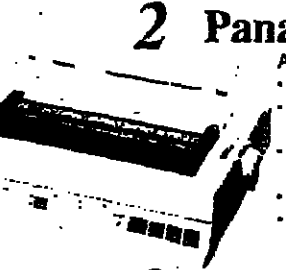
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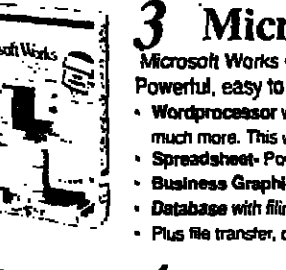
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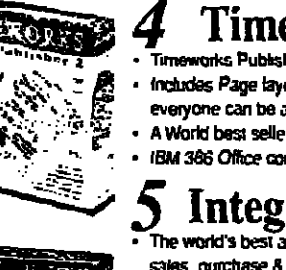
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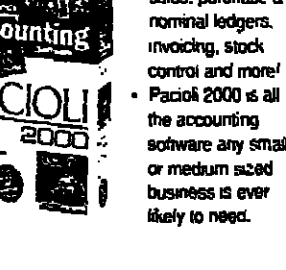
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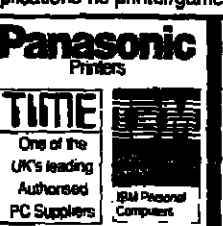
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New York — Shares were mildly weaker in early trading as investors found France's "yes" vote on the Maastricht treaty too lukewarm to justify enthusiasm.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 9.73 points at 3,317.32. In the broad market, declining shares

	21 Sep	22 Sep	21 Sep	22 Sep	21 Sep	22 Sep	21 Sep	22 Sep
AMF Inc	60	60	Enron Inc	54	54	Oracle Systems	19	19
Amgen Corp	39	39	Engelhard Corp	49	49	Orion Corp	29	29
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## COMMENT

## Conditions that start at home

Carlos Solchaga, the chairman of the IMF interim committee, may have been thinking partly as Spain's finance minister when he linked sterling's return to the ERM, one way or another, to the Maastricht treaty being ratified by Parliament. The suggestion does, however, put some focus on Norman Lamont's conditions for re-entry. Few would argue against waiting until the foreign exchanges have reached calmer waters. There is unspoken self-criticism in the more significant conditions: that the British and German economies should be in better cyclical synch and that there should be greater co-operation in running the ERM.

Sterling's first entry aimed to use the ERM to bear down on inflation at a moment when Britain was already in recession and the Bundesbank was already worrying about the gathering German boom. Any re-entry would need to be at a rate aimed to accommodate remaining short-term differences rather than affect domestic conditions. For medium-term co-ordination, interest rates would need to be well below those in Germany early in recovery, later rising at least to rates then prevailing in Germany.

Technical co-operation within the ERM broke down during August, when sterling reached the 75 per cent mark on the divergence indicator and Mr Lamont ignored the presumption, under ERM rules, that corrective action would be taken. If the government thought the required rise in interest rates would merely remind the markets that the economy was too weak to take further punishment, it also knew the game was up for sterling. If other countries are to have an absolute obligation to support a weak currency at the divergence threshold, domestic policy action must also be obligatory.

In theory, Britain could still have mobilised the money supply of Europe to defend sterling at the floor. It did not dare to do so because Mr Lamont knew the currency was fundamentally out of line and could not survive a French *non*, however much the Bank of England borrowed for support over six months. This was not a failure of the system but shows that infinite reserves are useless if the fundamentals are wrong. This lesson will need to be remembered. Even if monetary union eventually got back on track, markets would expect a further general realignment *en route*. The one lesson that should be learnt in the Bundesbank is that having to create billions of marks for ERM intervention is just as inflationary as domestic money growth and should be given equal weight in setting interest rates.

## Urgent Sears

There is a purposefulness about the manner of Sears' withdrawal from menswear that was missing in the past. An ability to clarify objectives was among the qualities that persuaded the sleepy retail chain to lure Liam Strong from British Airways. He did not arrive a minute too soon. The group's 350 remaining menswear shops are swallowing cash at the rate of some £16 million a year. They would have cost still more to turn round and Sears would still have ended up with a business that it did not want, with a tiny share of a cut-throat market. Such was Sears' new-found urgency to act on a decision that it has helped finance the buyout.

Mr Strong will concentrate on the shoe shops, the Adams childrenswear chain, the Olympus and Millets sports and leisurewear outlets and the Wallis and Miss Selfridge chains, all of which are strong in their markets. The City now awaits the answer to the question of the dividend. Mr Strong's deck-clearing provisions will leave too little to cover an unchanged payment this year. Yesterday's 5p improvement in the share price to 69p suggests investors are prepared to allow action to speak louder than dividends.

**Wolfgang Münchau**  
says that after last week's events, Britain could find itself on the fringes of a multi-level Europe with a federal core

If the Bundesbank really wanted to put the boot in, why not issue an "unauthorised" view on the following subject: 'Britain, after the ERM debacle and the French Yes vote, going to be in the second division of a two-tier Europe or in the third division of a three-tier Europe?

The question of the extent of Britain's isolation is not as absurd and condescending as it may seem at first, although on reflection the Bundesbank may perhaps be well advised to stay out of this altogether. One should not kick a man when he is down, especially not if one is deemed, however unfairly, to have put him there in the first place.

Those not afraid of the thorny issue of variable geometry in Europe would consider the above question not nearly so offensive, and perhaps even as absolutely crucial in the debate of Britain's future in Europe. There can be little doubt that Britain at the moment is not only down, but also out of the heart of Europe, which John Major thought was Britain's rightful place.

With the suspension of sterling from the ERM — or was it expulsion? — Britain has detached itself from an important aspect of European co-operation, whether intended or not. When the French voted Yes to Maastricht, they indirectly also ensured the survival of the exchange-rate system from which sterling had earlier been suspended, thereby effectively endorsing this detachment.

But there is much more to it than that. Preventing a federal Europe and Britain's isolation was the centrepiece of the government's European policy. This policy, too, seems to have collapsed. And rightly so. Britain now looks isolated, and the Yes vote might even accelerate the speed at which parts of Europe will now move in the federal direction.

Were this to happen, it may have little if anything to do with the Maastricht treaty. Indeed, the treaty may be completely irrelevant. Many observers and politicians now cast doubt on the survival prospects of the treaty after the narrow Yes vote. Ratification will probably facilitate matters somewhat. Maybe the Danes will content themselves with a solemn "we-all-love-Denmark" declaration; if not, the treaty may have to be completely renegotiated or even dropped altogether.

But in the end, the future of Maastricht may not matter greatly. What matters is whether the Yes vote will lead to a multi-tier Europe with a federal core in the centre and with Britain and others countries waiting

## Fresh start for Europe after a divorce that will end in tiers



Trial separation: the ERM honeymoon is temporarily over for John Major, but not for Chancellor Kohl, left, and President Mitterrand

on the fringes. This brings us back to the question of variable geometry and the extent of Britain's isolation, and whether all this matters.

The principal certainty which the French Yes vote has created is the survival of Europe's exchange-rate mechanism, perhaps the most crucial point of all. In the event of a No vote, the ERM and the prospects of a single currency this decade, or even next, would have perished. Financial markets would have erased European economic and monetary union from their expected timescale, and would have reacted by rallying into such "safe" currencies as the mark or the dollar. The other European currencies would have come under such pressure that the ERM would have been torn apart by speculators.

The Yes vote not only guaranteed the ERM's survival, but, combined with the exit of sterling and the lira, strengthened it. The system was burdened by the need to keep on board currencies whose underlying economies have clearly diverged from those of the others. This was clear in the case of Britain and Italy. The Bundesbank carried the brunt of this burden when it spent more than DM50 billion last week in currency intervention, an estimated DM35 billion alone to support sterling.

What is also important is that the fall in membership may also have changed the nature of the system. The most fascinating point is that the ERM may not only be a necessary condition for EMU as set out in the Maastricht treaty, but it may even constitute a sufficient condition, obviating the need for a Maastricht

treaty. This would work only on the condition that the members club is kept small and exclusive. It is especially important for this club not to admit those whose main purpose would be to change the rules of the club, as in the case of Britain, or to break them, as in the case of Italy.

When sterling and the lira were suspended from the ERM, the chances of a non-Maastricht EMU rose considerably. There is nothing new about this kind of Europe. The original six-member EC was such a case. The Europe of variable geometry is the only one to have achieved progress in the past. It will be the only one which will get us out of our ideological mess at the moment.

Under a non-Maastricht EMU, the core ERM currencies of Germany, France and the Benelux countries will be locked into ever tighter bands, culminating in an irrevocably fixed exchange rate, similar to the one-for-seven rate against the mark that Austria adopted in the 1970s and has stuck to ever since.

From irrevocably fixed exchange rates to a single currency is a relatively small step, requiring only an adjustment of nominal parities. Unlike the Maastricht treaty, it would not require a referendum or a change in the constitution. Even the present currencies could remain, provided they are legal tender in the entire currency zone.

The main difference between the two versions of monetary union is that the non-Maastricht EMU needs no complex and condescending rules

about harmonisation and convergence. There will be no convergence criteria, no rules that set out in a complex formula about maximum inflation levels, public sector deficits or debt ceilings. The economies of the Benelux countries, Germany and France are so closely linked that fully fledged monetary union could be possible well before the 1997 or 1999 dates as set out in the Maastricht treaty. There is no reason for these five countries not to adopt irrevocable exchange rates on January 1 next year to coincide with the introduction of the single market.

Maastricht has one advantage over the home-grown EMU in that it envisages the establishment of a central European bank. Otherwise we would have to make do with the Bundesbank. The events of the last week have incidentally established quite clearly that a future European central bank will now most definitely not be located in London, but in Bonn or Frankfurt.

Where does this all leave Britain? All this may perhaps turn out to be a good thing for the economy; interest rates could come down, and the government can now conduct a monetary policy more suited to an economy in deep recession. But then, it may also turn out to be a disaster, given the history of British governments to mismanage an economy under whichever system. However, there is little doubt that the chances for an economic recovery are infinitely greater now than they were a week ago.

Whatever the government's official position, sterling will stay outside the

system for some time. During this period, the mark, the French, Belgian and Luxembourg francs and the guilder, will stick together and grow ever closer in the direction of a single currency. The Italians may want to join this club, but will only be allowed to do so once the country has sorted its constitutional and economic difficulties. Italy now has the best incentive to get on with the job of carrying out the tough policies needed to shrink the budget deficit and the national debt before being allowed back into the core of Europe.

Britain's case is different. It could be a member of the club if it really wanted, but has decided not to do so. Mr Major's demand for an overhaul of the exchange-rate mechanism may be well intended, but it is not clear whether Chancellor Kohl or President Mitterrand would agree. They do not need such a reform for their purposes.

Nor does Mr Major. Even ERM proponents have not able to make the case that ERM membership proved to be the right policy for Britain, and it is futile to debate what would have happened if Britain had persisted with ERM membership for a little while longer. The events of the last eight days have shown that Europe is not ready to move into ever-closer union of all its members states. But there can equally be no doubt that Europe is ready for a union of a small group of core countries, leaving the others to choose the extent of their involvement at their own pace and in their own time.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## Duffield settles claim

VIVIEN Duffield, nee Clore, one of the wealthiest women in Britain, may be interested to hear that her ex-husband John Duffield, fund manager extraordinaire and now running Jupiter Tyndall Merdin, the investment group, has resolved a rather embarrassing case of sexual harassment. Duffield, who is due to be joined at his Knightsbridge headquarters by Lenny Light, one of the stars of Mercury Asset Management, on a salary of £600,000, yesterday handed over £10,000 — the statutory maximum — in "full and final settlement" of a sexual harassment claim by one of his junior fund managers, Fiona Mills. In a formal statement, Duffield said that he and the company "acknowledge that Miss Mills may have suffered stress as a result of conduct towards her which was not in any way intended to cause any stress". They added that they "regretted very much any unhappiness which may be caused". The alleged "harassment" was reputed to have involved blue language rather than anything physical. As Vivien Duffield once said of her ex, "He's a brilliant fund manager but a lousy husband."

## Peak condition

CANARY Wharf has its uses. After a practice run up its 1,200 stairs in August, Colin Harris, an assistant director at Morgan Grenfell, has conquered the more awesome peaks of Mount Kinabalu



"At the third stroke the value of the pound will be"

(13,500 ft) in Borneo, the highest mountain in Southeast Asia, in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Appeal. It took Harris, 37, 12 minutes 41 seconds to sprint to the 50th floor of Canary Wharf and down again. Mount Kinabalu took six hours and five minutes. "Canary Wharf was useful practice for going up and down, but Kinabalu was not so much about running as surviving," says Harris. His efforts raised £45,000 for the Marsden and he says he is now taking up fell running as a more suitable preparation for future climbs.

## Name game

THE Lanesborough Hotel, built on the site of the former St George's hospital and run by Rosewood, the Texas hotels group, is anxious to point out that it was ineligible for the recent Hotel of the Year Award — won by Claridges — because it had not been in existence long enough. It has been open

for nine months and is running at 65 per cent occupancy. The Lanesborough's protestations — which indicate its desire to win the award next year — coincide with revelations that the hotel was once destined to be called The Wilton, a Westminster family name. Some of those consulted gave warning, however, that the public might abbreviate it to The Willy, a somewhat undignified nickname for a hotel that charges £2,500 a night for its best suite. The proposal was finally shelved when a site architect sent all those involved a fax that read: "We can't call it The Wilton 'cos it sounds like The Hilton but if we paint the cracks green we could call it The Sillion."

## Stork play

IS THERE a spell on Room 212 at National Westminster's Ladbroke Square headquarters? Paul Lockstone, 29, has become the third NarWest PR man in four years to become a father since starting work in the personal finance press office, which operates from Room 212. Press officer Rob Jamieson was the first to succumb two years ago, followed last year by John Morgan — now press officer at Legal & General — and Lockstone's wife Helen gave birth to Sam, their first child, on Sunday. Tim Blythe, deputy head of PR, located in room 213, considers himself safe enough but just-married Mike Verigans, 32, another inhabitant of Room 212, was looking understandably nervous yesterday.

CAROL LEONARD

## Hidden costs in the price of an international lunch

From Mr John Jannere  
Sir, Earlier this month, a luncheon for former UN staff was held in Vienna. Each participant was requested to send an international postal money order in advance for 500 Austrian schillings (£25 approximately at that time).

Participants from France simply went to their local post offices, gave details as to where the money should be sent and paid Fr25. The transfer was complete and there were no charges in Vienna. Participants from other continental European countries did not report any difficulties.

Participants from the UK, however, faced problems, differing advice and greater expense. Several post offices said that such money orders were not available. Giro could, nev-

ertheless, send the money for a fee of £15, but only in sterling as the "exchange rate applicable would not be known". One main post office suggested buying Austrian schilling notes and posting them. Another, sending a UK postal order — which resulted in a second charge in Vienna of approximately £10 for conversion. UK banks could handle the operation and charges were usually £15, although one participant was charged £11. Is it correct that international postal money orders are not available in the UK and, if so, why not? The French charge of £2.50 was reasonable, but the UK charges, averaging over 50 per cent of the amount involved, were disproportionate. Incidentally, why is it that,

when cheques are presented in a foreign currency to a UK bank, they have to be sent to be "negotiated" and the sterling equivalent is not usually known for some days? The smallest banks in New Zealand, Australia, Andorra, and, no doubt, many other countries, simply refer to their foreign exchange rate lists, updated daily, and credit one's account with a specific amount, with value a certain number of days ahead or on clearance of the cheque. The UK procedure may be appropriate for substantial sums, but surely is generally unnecessary and inconvenient. Sincerely,  
JOHN W. JANNERE  
69-B La Plata,  
Ordino,  
Principality of Andorra.

## Cooling-off period needed on copier contracts

From Mr Paul Winner  
Sir, Ron Young, the chairman of the Finance and Leasing Association, referred in his letter (September 11) to the publicity arising from "cowboy" photocopy salesmen misrepresenting contracts and forcing small businesses, churches, charities and schools into financial difficulties or liquidation.

The Campaign to Clean up Copier Contracts (CCCC), supported by the CBI, has details of over 2,000 complainants who have fallen victim to this type of photocopy contract. It is estimated that there are 150,000 "Copy-Plan" or cost-per-copy contracts in existence yielding £1.2 billion per annum to the industry, increasing at 5 to 25 per cent per annum.

The FIA Guidance Notes on Sales Aid Leasing, referred to by Mr Young, do make an important contribution to

dealing with future contract abuses. However, many of the "unfair" contracts signed in the past may have many years to run. The guidelines do not apply to the contracts signed before the guidelines came into effect in April 1992, and do not cover leasing companies which are not members of the FIA.

All leasing companies need to adopt the guidelines. The campaign is now seeking a two-week mandatory "cooling-off" period for all new contracts and for amendments to the Consumer Credit Act and the Unfair Contract Terms Act so that protection already given to individuals is extended to corporate bodies. Yours faithfully,  
PAUL WINNER (Director),  
Campaign to Clean up Copier Contracts,  
Campaign Headquarters,  
c/o Paul Winner Consultants Ltd, 141 Sloane Street, SW1.

## Law of economics and price of a pint

From W. M. Reid  
Sir, I have sympathy with Mr John Willis's letter (September 15) about the price of a pint in London being different from that in the provinces. Also where he says that prices of supermarket goods do not differ.

I fear it is part of the English law of economics — when sales are down increase price to maintain turnover. It was evident in hotel room prices until recently not to mention over-priced restaurant meals — even in recession! Yours faithfully,  
W. M. REID,  
36 St Peter's Square,  
W6.

Letters to The Times  
Business and Finance  
section can be  
sent by fax on  
071-782 5112.

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[illegible][illegible]

**FT-SE VOLUMES**

Aldy-Hall	4,600	Coats Vite	6,000	Legal & Grn	2,800	Ryl Bk Scot	2,200
Bibb-Lewis	2,400	Cm Union	1,000	Lloyd Bk	3,200	Sainsbury	2,800
Anshun W	3,700	Chong Chai	3,300	Mil Carlin	1,200	Scot & New	1,800
Amigan Dip	2,900	Eung China	4,300	MEPC	3,000	Scot Power	5,600
Archie Wile	900	Fairbank	1,000	Scott Spr	900	Stewart	1,000
Art Fords	—	Entornmi U	266	NFC	12,200	Swift Trans	7,900
BAA	1,101	Flours	536	Narwhk Bk	6,400	Smelk	1,100
BAT Inds	6,700	Fine	7,800	Nim Was W	3,300	Smith Lbk	6,800
BET	8,200	GRE	2,600	North Fds	3,600	Tennco	1,400
BFI	2,300	GLS A	500	P & C	3,400	Smith WHW	2,400
BP	10,000	Glen Elac	1,900	Pearson	1,300	Sn Altham	6,500
DTR	9,800	Glaso	—	Piklington	7,800	TSB	1,300
BK of Scot	2,200	Grand Met	6,200	PowerGen	1,100	Type & Type	2,700
Barr	2,400	H&M	1,000	Pratt Smith	1,000	Thames W	3,100
Bass	2,400	HSBC	6,600	RMC	1,000	Thames W	3,100
Vire Circle	4,700	Hanson	13,000	RTZ	3,500	Tim EMI	4,600
Bouts	4,100	Hillside	2,200	Rank Org	900	Tomkins	5,800
BSI	1,000	ICI	1,000	Reid Int Cos	700	Unilever	2,600
Brit Aero	2,400	Inchcape	1,600	Redland	200	Unit Int	1,500
Brit Airways	5,600	Kingsfisher	2,800	Reed Int	3,800	Vodafone	2,200
Brit Alsps	16,000	EMO	5,400	Remokoi	888	Wellcome	2,600
Brit Steel	21,000	Laurie	8,600	Resumes	1,200	Willits M	1,000
Brylcrex	1,000	Lazda	1,000	Rothmans	800	Williams Tr	1,600
Cadbury	2,800	Laurie	1,300	Royston	856	Whitby Tr	1,000

## LIFF

	Cals			Pens				Cals			Pens			
	Sevier	Oct	Nov	Oct	Nov	Jan		Sevier	Nov	Feb	Mar	Feb	Mar	
Mila Low	650	51	64	11	50	27	BAA	650	60	75	91	11	20	24
"C21	650	11	26	38	41	25	M993-1	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C22	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C21	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C23	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C22	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C24	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C23	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C25	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C24	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C26	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C25	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C27	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C26	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C28	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C27	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C29	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C28	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C30	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C29	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C31	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C30	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C32	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C31	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C33	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C32	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C34	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C33	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C35	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C34	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C36	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C35	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C37	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C36	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C38	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C37	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C39	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C38	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C40	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C39	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C41	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C40	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C42	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C41	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C43	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C42	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C44	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C43	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C45	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C44	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
"C46	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C45	650	79	46	62	28	40	44
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"C132	650	1	3	4	1	1	"C131	650	79	4				

Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
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[illegible]

## MAJOR INDICES

<b>Bow York (midday):</b>		<b>FTSE Euro 100:</b>
D Jones	3315.43 (+116.2)	<b>Brussels:</b>
S Composite	421.70 (-1.23)	<b>Paris:</b>
<b>Tokyo:</b>		<b>Stock CAC</b>
Nikkei Avg.	18066.24 (-100.56)	<b>Zurich:</b> S&K G
<b>Hong Kong:</b>		<b>London:</b>
Ng Seng	5741.53 (+52.21)	FT A-All-Share
<b>Amsterdam:</b>		FT 500
S Tendency	113.0 (-0.6)	FT Global Mins
<b>Audney:</b> ANK	1531.6 (-8.0)	FT Fixed Interest
<b>Frankfurt:</b>		FT Govt Secs
X	1573.86 (-15.47)	Bargains
		SEAQ Volume
		USM (Daxterm)

<b>TRADITIONAL OPTIONS</b>		
<b>Last Dealings</b>	<b>Last Dealings</b>	<b>Last Declaration</b>
September 14	September 21	December 10

Options were taken out on 21/9/92: Acorn Comp, Amstrad 486, BSA, BT, Cambridge Scientific, Canon, Casio, Commodore 64, Datsun, Emerson, Farnand, Hospital Corp, WPP, Chemical, QinetiQ, Ralston Purina, Renault, Reuters, Royal Bank, Shell, Siemens, Sony, Sun Microsystems, Swissair, Toyota Woodward, TVS, Wyff, Puat Effects.

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[illegible]

Offer	+	Yld %	Bid	Offer	+	Yld %
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[illegible]

## LONDON FINANCIAL

	Period	Open
<b>1050.43 (+20.52)</b>		
5512.76 (+4.77)	Dec 92	2620.0
496.04 (-1.77)	Mar 93	2692.0
432.3 (+2.0)		
1206.06 (+1.69)		
1387.78 (+6.69)		
104.64 (+2.81)		
89.20 (+0.66)		
38364		
51.6 (+1.9)		
111.84 (+0.11)		
<b>FT-SE 100</b>		
Previous open interest: 38583		
<b>Three Month Sterling</b>		
Previous open interest: 228199		
<b>Three Mth Eurodollar</b>		
Previous open interest: 22847		
<b>Three Mth Euro DM</b>		
Previous open interest: 129719		
<b>US Treasury Bond</b>		
Previous interest: 1903		
<b>Long Gilt</b>		
Previous open interest: 64972		
<b>Japanese Govt Bond</b>		
<b>German Govt Bond</b>		
Previous open interest: 131623		
<b>Three month ECU</b>		
Previous open interest: 9249		
<b>Euro Swiss Franc</b>		
Previous open interest: 38355		
<b>Italian Govt Bond</b>		
<b>Settlement</b>		
<b>ASX200, Bula, BFR</b>		
<b>Most. Ransomes</b>		
<b>Port. Rona, Kalon</b>		
<b>ASX200, Bula, BFR</b>		
<b>Most. Ransomes</b>		
<b>Port. Rona, Kalon</b>		

## COMMODITIES

[illegible]

Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
20.17	21.57	+ 1.40	10.00	20.17	21.57	+ 1.40	10.00	20.17	21.57	+ 1.40	10.00

[illegible]

FUTURES

Low		Cost Volume	
130	2590.00	2607.00	16511
120	2092.00	2639.00	10
75	91.80	96.80	54139
60	91.80	96.80	172562
45	91.80	96.80	13322
30	91.80	96.80	10
15	91.80	96.80	213
10	91.80	96.80	51531
5	91.80	96.80	17184
106-17	106-17	106-17	128
105-14	105-14	105-14	128
97-12	97-12	97-12	2039
92-9	92-9	92-9	43321
105-56	105-56	105-56	484
104-9	104-9	104-9	0
88	90.40	90.40	75102
82	90.40	90.40	62
75	90.40	90.40	1301
68	90.40	90.40	1301
62	90.40	90.40	1301
55	90.40	90.40	1301
48	90.40	90.40	1301
41	90.40	90.40	1301
34	90.40	90.40	1301
27	90.40	90.40	1301
20	90.40	90.40	1301
13	90.40	90.40	1301
6	90.40	90.40	1301
0	90.40	90.40	1301

Bahrain dinar	0.640-0.649	Belgium (Com)	30.61-30.65
Brazil cruzeiro *	9923.44-9929.61	Canada	1.2305-1.2310
Cyprus pound	0.7475-0.7585	Denmark kr	5.79-6.01

[illegible]



## Portfolio

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Mirror Gp.	Newspaper/Pub	1.00
2	Bryant	Building/Rtd	1.00
3	Br Airways	Transport	1.00
4	Oranger	Property	1.00
5	Black Lbs	Draperies/Sts	1.00
6	Electronics	Electrical	1.00
7	Wohrman D	Breweries	1.00
8	Peritman	Building/Rtd	1.00
9	Barrat Dvs	Building/Rtd	1.00
10	Sears	Draperies/Sts	1.00
11	Diploma	Industrial	1.00
12	Bowthorpe	Electrical	1.00
13	Yule Cam	Chemicals	1.00
14	Providence	Bank/Disc	1.00
15	Dunhill	Draperies/Sts	1.00
16	Emm	Draperies/Sts	1.00
17	Portals	Industrial	1.00
18	BM Gp	Industrial	1.00
19	Wimpey G	Building/Rtd	1.00
20	Brent Chem	Chemicals	1.00
21	Welling	Mining	1.00
22	Reunite	Industrial	1.00
23	Farnell Elect	Electrical	1.00
24	ERF	Motor/Air	1.00
25	Tridaght H	Industrial	1.00
26	Waddington D	Paper/Print	1.00
27	Robson John	Building/Rtd	1.00
28	Lamson	Textiles	1.00
29	Salmon C	Food	1.00
30	Galley	Industrial	1.00
31	Albright	Industrial	1.00
32	E Rand Prop	Mining	1.00
33	Kewill Sys	Electrical	1.00
34	London & Man	Insurance	1.00
35	Pendragon	Motor/Air	1.00
36	Govett	Finance/Land	1.00
37	More O'Hara	Paper/Print	1.00
38	Woodale	Oil/Gas	1.00
39	Transport Dev	Transport	1.00
40	Savills	Property	1.00
41	Unigate	Food	1.00
42	Perico	Draperies/Sts	1.00
43	Allied Lon	Property	1.00
44	CRG Gp	Textiles	1.00

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily gains for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Four readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr T Lee, of St Albans; Mrs L Lancaster, of Malden, Essex; Mr W Stewart-Morgan, of Newcastle on Tyne; and Mrs J Allen, of Salford, Norfolk, each receive £1,000.

1992 High Low Company Price Price % Net Yld % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

317 3000 Abbey Hill 300 1.00 47.00 1.00

185 1500 Abbey Hill 150 1.00 47.00 1.00

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## Volatile session

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings end October 2. Contango day October 5. Settlement day October 12. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is a dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992 High Low Company Price Price % Net Yld % P/E

22 13 Vesta 19 1.00 4.3 2.0 1.00

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## Portfolio

© Times Newspapers Limited  
DAILY DIVIDEND  
£2,000  
Claims required for +50 points  
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

1992 High Low Company Price Price % Net Yld % P/E

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ON SATURDAY  
12 KMS OF RIGGING WILL BE  
LEAVING SOUTHAMPTON.

YOUR INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE  
BROKING PARTNER C E HEATH  
133 HOUNDSDITCH LONDON EC4A 3AH TELEPHONE: 071 234 4000



1992 High Low Company Price Price % Net Yld % P/E

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## MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

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## Top banks in South Africa sight Europe

By Jon Ashworth

THREE powerful South African banking groups are making a determined push to raise their profile in Europe. The most recent move came last week when Standard Bank opened a London trading subsidiary.

Despite being overshadowed by events on the money markets, the irony of the move will not be lost on City observers. It is barely seven years since Standard Chartered sold out of South Africa, abandoning a subsidiary that has now come back to haunt it.

In a separate move, Barclays Bank's former South African subsidiary is in talks to buy Henry Ansbacher Holdings, the small UK merchant bank. If all goes to plan, two familiar British banking names will soon have daily reminders of the networks they abandoned at considerable cost.

Standard Bank London, formerly known as Ludgate Advisory Services, was granted a UK banking licence in

June and will offer a range of treasury and corporate finance services. Standard Bank has also acquired the offshore operations of Brown Shipley, the merchant bank, in Jersey and the Isle of Man.

Barclays announced this month that it was selling Allied Trust Bank to Investec, South Africa's fifth-largest banking group, for £25 million. Allied Trust, formerly Allied Arab Bank, has total assets of about £200 million. The purchase gives Investec a presence in Europe for the first time.

Attention has now switched to First National Bank, which is in advanced talks to buy Henry Ansbacher for a reputed £50 million. If the talks succeed, it will be the first time that a South African bank has acquired a British bank. The takeover would need the Bank of England's approval. First National was born after Barclays disinvested from South Africa in 1986.

## Lloyd's does its duty for seamanship

By Jonathan Prynn



Keeping up the tradition: Jonathan Jones, with Nelson's log-book from HMS Victory

THE long tradition of Lloyd's encouraging high standards of seamanship is being revived through a new scheme for sponsorship of merchant navy cadets funded by charitable donations from Lloyd's underwriters and brokers.

Jonathan Jones, underwriter for marine syndicate 329, who devised the Lloyd's Officer Cadet Scheme, said falling standards of seamanship meant about 75 per cent of all marine casualty losses are caused by human error. These high levels of losses have crippled the Lloyd's marine market in recent years.

The scheme, launched last week, will this year sponsor two cadets through their courses at South Shields training college at a total cost of £11,000, of which half will be provided in the form of a government grant. If successful, the programme will be expanded to sponsor up to 10 cadets. Mr Jones, who is an underwriter with the Octavian managing agency, said he also hoped to open up the scheme to other members of EC countries.

Lloyd's has long been a staunch supporter of innovations such as the Pimsoll line and the Lloyd's Register of Shipping that have helped reduce marine losses.

## Smith New Court to extend its dealing service

By Philip Pangalos

SMITH New Court, the stockbroker, is to extend its dealing service to cover a wider range of shares in smaller companies despite contrasting moves by other securities houses.

Smith is to help companies faced with the transfer of trading in their shares from the Stock Exchange Seaq system to the company bulletin board.

Anthony Abrahams, head of UK market making at Smith, said: "We are well aware of the commercial difficulties market makers have in maintaining a two-way quote in shares that are traded infrequently."

"We are also aware of the difficulties that companies and their shareholders may experience in dealing in their shares. We will endeavour to provide this service to our clients."

Smith will initially take on up to 50 extra companies, with the new service due to start next week. A trader at Smith said: "The recession will not be here for ever. We think it is right to maintain the attraction to go public."

The news will be welcomed by some smaller companies after County NatWest decided last week to significantly reduce its coverage of second line stocks. It is thought that County could stop making markets in as many as 200 to 300 smaller companies.

County's action followed a similar move by SG Warburg Securities this month. Warburg ceased making markets in 362 small company stocks, with a number of those companies being switched from the main market to the company bulletin board, which provides information to match buyers and sellers of the shares of illiquid smaller companies.

Many of those relegated to the bulletin board are left with only one market maker. A number of companies have criticised the Stock Exchange for failing to deal with the problem of illiquidity. The system has also been criticised by brokers, who say it does little to encourage trading. The Stock Exchange's domestic committee is due to meet this week to consider ways of improving the bulletin board.

A ray of hope for smaller companies is provided by Winterflood Securities, the specialist smaller companies stockbroker that deals in about 850 companies.

Winterflood has extended the range of companies it covers, and Brian Winterflood, its managing director, is "toying with the idea" that his group could one day become "the stockbroker to smaller companies—all companies".

"A lot of these companies have paid a great deal of money to get a quote. People are not getting a good enough service," said Mr Winterflood.

Mr Winterflood, who believes the time is now right to increase smaller companies involvement, saw signs of increased activity during last week's stock market surge, even among second-line stocks.

He said: "We doubled our bargains last week, although they have been at a low level." "We do need a bit of fine tuning to our market if we want to get over this problem of illiquidity," says Mr Winterflood, although he feels we are over the worst. "It's all looking better. In the last six months, the market has been a real cow, but I think we are over the worst and we are in with a real chance."

Philip Meredith, a director of Kleinwort Benson who heads the securities house's smaller companies team, is also optimistic.

He said: "Most of the smaller companies have risen with the rest of the market. In the past it has been fragmented. The illiquid part of the market has drifted away."

However, people coming to the market these days have to be in a more developed state than previously. Gone are the days when a company capitalised as low as a few million pounds could come to the market, with the view to obtaining a quote and raising capital.

A more realistic market capitalisation of at least £10 million is likely to be necessary nowadays, given that the cost of coming to the market, even for a relatively small company, will not fall far short of £500,000.

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## Marginal rise for Metalrax

By Matthew Bond

METALRAX, the Birmingham engineering group, has continued to defy recession by reporting pre-tax profits of £3.3 million for the six months to end-June, a marginal but nonetheless significant rise over the first half of 1991.

The £13,000 increase in pre-tax profits is the company's 17th consecutive increase and came despite a 6 per cent drop in turnover to £30 million. The interim dividend is increased by 10 per cent to 1p (0.91p).

John Wardle, chairman, said sales were even more difficult to achieve than in 1990 or 1991. The record profits, he said, were proof of "the remarkable ability of the Metalrax management team to manage costs, which owes a great deal to the recommendation of healthy and consistent investment in capital plant and equipment to ensure the maintenance of profitability". He said shareholders "will not be dissatisfied" with the full year results in March.

Capital expenditure in the first half was 25 per cent up on the same period of 1991. Despite that, the company's cash balances were £3 million higher than a year ago.

## Mandarin poised to recover

FROM REUTER  
IN HONG KONG

MANDARIN Oriental International should record full-year profit growth in 1992 for the first time since 1989, Simon Keswick, chairman, said.

The hotel owner and management company, 50 per cent owned by Jardine Strategic Holdings, announced a 10 per cent rise in net profit to US\$19.2 million for the first six months. Mr Keswick said: "The stronger performance of our hotels in Hong Kong, Manila and Singapore should enable the company to achieve profit growth for 1992 as a whole." He gave no precise forecast but profits had fallen to US\$37.4 million in 1991 from a high of US\$50.4 million in 1989.

Mr Keswick said: "The major factor in the company's improved performance was the growth of travel both from within the Asia-Pacific region and from Europe."

In Hong Kong, Manila and Singapore occupancy levels were higher but room rates showed little growth and fell in Singapore. Contributions from hotels in Macao and Jakarta were affected by new competitors. Bangkok's result was little changed.

## Salvesen completes sale of oil services company

By Our City Staff

CHRISTIAN Salvesen, the Edinburgh storage and transport group, has completed the sale of Salvesen Oilfield Technology, its oil field services subsidiary, for £28.5 million. The purchaser is BJ Services of Houston, Texas.

The net book value of the assets being sold is £15.8 million from which an operating profit of £3.3 million was earned in the financial year to end March.

Under the financing terms, Christian Salvesen receives an initial £13.5 million and £15 million in the form of a 90-day note. The sale proceeds will be used to reduce gearing, which stood at 35 per cent at the March year end. Talks about a possible sale of the Aberdeen

subsidiary were announced in July.

The subsidiary supplies a number of specialist services to the off shore oil industry, including casings for drill holes and well bottom clearing services. However, the oil operations no longer form part of Christian Salvesen's long term strategy, which is aimed at concentrating on its core distribution and hire operations.

Dr Chris Masters, chief executive of Christian Salvesen, said: "The sale of Salvesen Oilfield Technology is in line with our strategy of focusing on a limited number of activities where we have a demonstrable and maintainable competitive edge."

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1991

	£ (MILLIONS)	% (91/90)
TOTAL ASSETS (including commitments and contingencies)	80,350	+13.2
DEPOSITS FROM CUSTOMERS	31,126	+13.5
LOANS AND ADVANCES TO CUSTOMERS	23,090	+14.5
FUNDS UNDER ADMINISTRATION	49,505	+16.9
GROSS OPERATING PROFIT	761	+ 3.2
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	2,633	+23.7

The following subsidiaries have also contributed to the 1991 consolidated figures: Monte Paschi Leasing, Monte Paschi Factor, Monte Paschi SE.R.I.T., G.E.R.I.T., IFC, Monte Paschi Finanza S.I.M., Monte Paschi Mercato S.I.M., Centrofinanziaria, MPS U.S. Commercial Paper.

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If there is only one reason, however, and that reason is purely financial, the chances of success are remote. At first, each side hopes that by joining the other their earnings will improve. As discussions proceed and they reveal their circumstances, the realization dawns that the gain on one side will equal the loss on the other – however the equation is juggled – and the loser backs off. There have to be operational reasons to merge – financial advantage alone is not enough. An exception to this rule is the break-away. Where partners find the poor performance of their other partners, they can move to a new firm taking their practice with them and the move will be to the financial advantage of both sides. The equation works in this case because the loss is carried by a third party – the firm which the partners leave.

Michael Chambers

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TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22 1992

## LAW TIMES

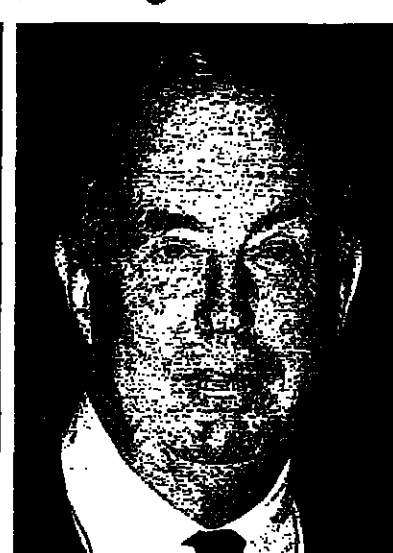
Should some people be knighted automatically? Derek Wheatley questions awards for top civil servants, soldiers and judges, but argues the case for the lower ranks



Sir Louis Blom-Cooper:  
knighted for his public service



Lord Williams of Mostyn:  
Chairman of the Bar



Lord Alexander of Weir:  
former Bar chairman



Sir Richard Gaskell: last president  
of the Law Society to be knighted

## A matter of honours

The prime minister has indicated that he wants an overhaul of the honours system. He has hinted that if there is one, it might be a scaling-down of the "automatic" honours to the benefit of those who earn them through some particular individual achievement.

So little is generally known, even by recipients, that more openness must be in the public interest, and a review might help achieve it.

Every Englishman loves a Lord — and would love to be one. Or perhaps a Knight Companion of the Bath, or a member of one of the several other orders of chivalry. How is it done? Who decides who should get what and why?

Lindsay Wilkinson, the honours secretary, provided me with some, but not all, of the answers. All honours are granted by the Queen on the prime minister's advice, but this masks the reality of how names are put forward.

There are several main categories. The diplomatic and overseas list is the responsibility of the foreign secretary, military honours are looked after by the defence secretary, and legal honours by the Lord Chancellor.

Then there is the prime minister's list, covering both political and non-political honours. The non-political list may be of the most interest, as it is a category without limits. Between 120 and 150 recommendations are received at 10 Downing Street alone every week, but the total number of honours given annually from the prime minister's list is fewer than 2,000.

All recommendations should receive equal consideration, and stand the same chance of success, whether made by a referee collector or a cabinet minister. There is a sifting process but details about it are not forthcoming.

The robing room attendant at the law courts whose long service, Cockney wit, unfailing good humour and endless fund of very funny, very rude jokes earn him a BEM will have helped many a future judge into his robes. So is he better placed in the honours stakes than his counterpart in some remote part of the country? Miss Wilkinson maintained stoutly that the system is fair for all.

So why are details of the screening process taboo? Would it matter much if the sort of people who are consulted were revealed? The whole system is shrouded in mystery.

and this cannot help the consideration of every deserving case, although I believe every one receives careful consideration. Nobody is prepared to explain which factors matter most.

A broad division can be made between those honours that receive automatic consideration and those that do not. In the civil service, a permanent secretary is likely to be knighted sooner or later, as is a lieutenant-general in the army, or a naval vice-admiral, whereas there is no such accepted threshold for those whose merit shines out on the playing fields, on the stage or in charitable work.

The law does pretty well. At least some parts do. Barristers, who number fewer than 7,000, provide the whole of the senior judiciary. There are 85 High Court judges, 27 lord justices of appeal and ten lords of appeal.

All High Court judges are knighted, and all chairmen of the Bar are offered a place on the High Court bench, all lord justices of appeal are also appointed to the Privy Council, and all lords of appeal are life peers.

They are honoured not because they are barristers, but because they have become judges. By so doing, they have probably made some financial sacrifice. The £97,000 paid to a law lord, the £93,000 of a judge in the Court of Appeal or the £84,250 of a High Court judge is likely to be less than the earnings of a busy QC or an equity partner in one of the City firms.

Sir Frederick Lawton, a retired lord justice, has said that "money is not the lure of the bench", and that the prospect of being knighted did not lure him. However, the prospect of legal honours must be an inducement for some who accept promotion to the bench, and certainly it is no disincentive.

Traditionally, the Bar and politics have gone hand in hand. The rhetoric that is the hallmark of a successful advocate has often been the foundation for political eloquence and advancement.

It may be harder for a barrister MP to find a parliamentary pair in order to escape from Westminster to take a case in the county court, but the pairing system still enables 58 barrister MPs to



David Ward: he did not receive a knighthood as president of the Law Society

carry on in practice. There are 29 solicitor MPs, too, and this figure itself is a strong representation for any profession.

The traditional link between the Bar and politics is the reason for the large number of political peers from the Bar. The present chairman of the Bar, Lord Williams of Mostyn, is the latest. There are 74 barrister peers, including hereditary peers, and 19 of them sit on the Labour benches.

Soon we can expect to see the first solicitors on the High Court bench, although 18 months have already elapsed since they became eligible.

Meanwhile, the 59,000 solicitors now practising do not fare too well. For many years, just one solicitor has been knighted annually, the award going to the president of the Law Society towards the end of his year in office, which entails a great sacrifice of time.

The knighthood must have been an inducement for the best possible candidates, and even their partners in the office would have enjoyed some reflected glory. Such knighthoods helped to oil the legal wheels, and had become automatic. The first knighted president was dubbed in 1882, and all 30 of the presidents between 1960 and 1989 were knighted. The practice ended in 1989 with Sir Richard Gaskell. The gov-

ernment had given notice that the automatic honour would cease.

David Ward, the next president, did not receive it. What was the reason? There were conflicting rumours. One was that another professional body, noting the distinction given to the Law Society, asked why its own president should not also be honoured.

The government examined the Law Society's position again and concluded that one year in office is not a sufficient reason for the honour. Instead of giving an additional honour to other professions, the government withdrew the Law Society's entitlement.

Some question whether any honours should be automatic and dependent solely on rank or grade in the civil service or forces, or whether any honour should be directly related to a particular achievement. The withdrawal of the Law Society's presidential knighthood has not been offset by other awards within the profession.

Solicitors who put in years of work to right miscarriages of justice, often without pay, do not receive honours, nor do senior partners in big City law firms. Nor do barristers, as such, receive rewards for their services as court advocates. Sir Louis Blom-Cooper was knighted for his work chairing various public bodies. In the law as elsewhere, the time seems ripe for the prime minister's review.

● The author is banking consultant for the law firm Watson, Farley & Williams.

tions of doing business in the EC.

## Coded claims

THE Solicitors Property Group has launched a code of practice guaranteeing transparency of fees, honest and straightforward advice, and independent financial advice, among other claims.

## Sunday sermon

SUNDAY trading law reform has become a crusade for Southampton lawyer Tony Ashman, of Hephworth, Winstanley & Pugh, who acts for B & Q. Mr Ashman says a ruling against retailers by the European Court of Justice would threaten "the livelihoods of thousands".

## Lunch loss

LUNCHES at Stephenson HUNCHES will never be quite the same. The City firm is mourning the departure of its in-house chef, Ms Clare Campbell Harris, who is starting her own business.

SCRIVENER

## A little home help for male au pairs

A CAREFUL reading of the immigration rules can cause surprise and bewilderment to even the most experienced practitioner. The case of Johan Egelstedt, a male Swedish au pair, aged 19, has focused attention on an immigration rule of especial absurdity. It also raises the important issue of how to tackle sex discrimination in immigration law.

Rule 33 of the immigration rules allows "an unmarried girl aged 17 to 27 inclusive and without dependants", who is a national of any member state of the European Community or of specified other European countries, to "come to the United Kingdom to learn the English language and to live for a time as a member of an English-speaking family". An au pair may remain in this country for up to two years.

At the end of last month the Home Office decided that because rule 33 applies only to "girls", Mr Egelstedt could not remain here as an au pair with the Leicester family that had invited him to stay. After representations from the family's MP, Greville Janner, the Home Office allowed Mr Egelstedt to remain in the country for a month as a visitor.

The sex discrimination inherent in the au pair rule conflicts with basic principles of equality law contained in the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 by assuming that men are unsuitable to perform certain types of jobs. The Home Office has aggravated the wrong by reliance on alleged administrative convenience — the nightmare of male au pairs flooding the country — as a defence for inequality.

There can be little doubt that the rule breaches European Community law. Indeed, the Home Office implicitly acknowledged this by announcing that male au pairs will be welcome if they come from member states of the Community.

Legal challenges to sexually discriminatory immigration laws have had little success in English courts. The Court of Appeal held in 1988 that "wives" cannot be construed to include "husbands" in the Immigration Act. So "au pair girls" cannot be interpreted as referring also to boys.

In 1980, the Court of Appeal dismissed a complaint that under the immigration rules a foreign husband had no right to remain in the UK with his student wife, even though the foreign wife of a man studying in the country was entitled to remain. The court held that in making immigration rules, the

secretary of state was not subject to the Sex Discrimination Act 1975. The House of Lords reached a similar conclusion in 1983, rejecting a complaint about sex discrimination in the provision of special vouchers for entry to the UK.

The courts have not pronounced on a more fundamental challenge to sexually discriminatory immigration rules. It is well established that the home secretary's power to make immigration rules is subject to the general principles of administrative law. He must act rationally and for a purpose intended by Parliament. In 1986, the High Court allowed an application for judicial review and struck down an immigration rule that it considered to be perverse.

It is strongly arguable that equality of opportunity for men and women is now so central to public policy in the UK that when Parliament confers a discretionary power on a minister, it cannot have intended him to discriminate on grounds of sex, unless it specifically said so, or unless the discrimination has some powerful justification.

Such an approach is supported by a decision of Mr Justice Cooke in the Supreme Court of New Zealand in 1977. He held that a minister had not lawfully exercised his power to specify conditions governing the payment of removal expenses for teachers, when the conditions laid down by him treated married female teachers less favourably than married male teachers. Mr Justice Cooke concluded that in modern times, discrimination on the ground of sex alone is so controversial, and so widely regarded as wrong, that I would not be prepared to infer authority to introduce it from "the general language of the statute".

So dramatic have been recent changes in legal and public policy that a department of state now applying discretionary powers in a sexually discriminatory manner without specific authorisation from Parliament may well be declared unlawful as a matter of public law.

Paragraph 6 of the immigration rules promises that "immigration officers will carry out their duties without regard to the race, colour or religion of people seeking to enter the United Kingdom". Equality of opportunity for men and women should be added to this principle so that the Home Office can avoid further public ridicule, as well as the risk of legal challenges.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



COUNSEL

DAVID  
PANICK QC

## The whole system is shrouded in mystery

## A party in Paris

THE Maastricht vote is good news for many City law firms. Despite last week's financial turbulence, the lawyers in Linklaters' Paris office were confident that there would be a majority in favour of Maastricht. "I am sure absolutely that, yes, we'll win," said French partner Jean-Marc Lefevre, on the day the pound crashed out of the ERM.

Linklaters' staff were all for the treaty. "When you are exposed to international transactions daily, you see how essential it is," said M Lefevre. They are now all celebrating.

Among French lawyers as a whole, however, there was probably a small majority opposed to any closer European union. "The legal profession here is conservative. If you are outside Paris, you would probably see little to be gained from Maastricht," said M Lefevre.

## INNS AND OUTS



## Pension progress

THE committee set up by the government to review pensions law, headed by the Norton Rose professor of English Law at Oxford, Professor Roy Goode, last week produced its consultation paper. Compensation schemes for pension

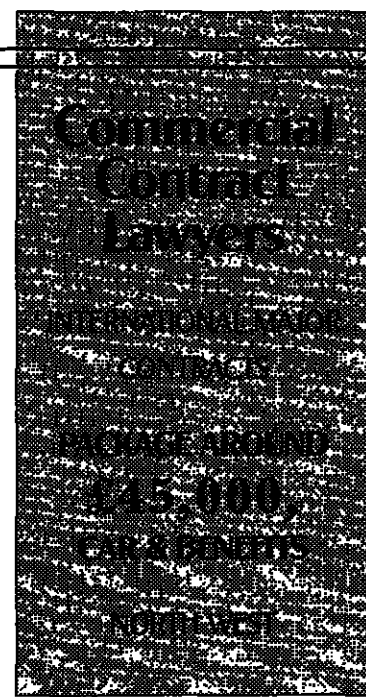
funds, and tougher controls on who may become a trustee, are among the proposals.

In the meantime, the Equal Opportunities Commission has produced *Your Pension Matters* to help women avoid impoverishment. Government research shows that women fare badly in retirement because of low earnings and work breaks. Only 15 per cent of women in Britain can claim the full state pension in their own right.

## On the box

THE offices of S.J. Berwin in Gray's Inn Road, central London, were turned into a television studio for a day last week while Television Education Network moved in to film a series of interviews.

The firm's competition specialist Ralph Cohen was questioned by John Howard of BBC Radio's *You and Yours* about the legal implica-



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# Reasonable excuse for unpaid tax

## Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Steptoe

Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Nolan and Lord Justice Scott  
(Judgment July 27)

A taxpayer was not prevented by section 33(2)(a) of the Finance Act 1985 from putting forward the reason for his insufficiency of funds to pay due tax as a reasonable excuse for his default.

Where the taxpayer's main client persistently delayed paying his bills so that financial difficulties rendered him unable to pay the value-added tax due, the tribunal had been entitled to decide that that excuse was sufficient to relieve him from penalties which would otherwise have been payable.

The Court of Appeal so held, Lord Justice Scott dissenting, when dismissing the appeal of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise from Mr Justice Kennedy (The Times May 6, 1991) who had affirmed the decision of the VAT tribunal (Chairman Judge Medd, QC) that Mr John Steptoe was relieved from paying a 30 per cent surcharge for late payment of VAT. Redbridge Borough Council, which accounted for 95 per cent of Mr Steptoe's work as an electrical contractor, had during the relevant period delayed in paying bills. In consequence he had insufficient funds to meet his VAT liabilities. Section 19(6)(b) of the 1985 Act provided that liability for a surcharge would not arise if a person, who might otherwise be liable, satisfied the commissioners or, on appeal, the VAT tribunal, that

there was a reasonable excuse for the return or tax not having been despatched.

Section 33(2)(a) of the 1985 Act provided that insufficiency of funds to pay any tax due was not a reasonable excuse.

Mr Nigel Fleming, QC, for the commissioners, Mr Steptoe in person.

LORD JUSTICE NOLAN said that in *Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Salevon Ltd* ([1989] STC 907) he had, sitting as a judge at first instance, rejected the commissioners' argument that if the direct cause of a trader's failure to pay the tax was insufficiency of funds he could never have a reasonable excuse for non-payment, whatever the circumstances.

They had not appealed that decision, which they regarded as wrong in principle since they considered that its practical effects could be tolerated so long as the reasonable excuse for the insufficiency was restricted to the wrongful or unlawful act of another or to some wholly unforeseeable misfortune.

The commissioners' argument remained the same on the present appeal and, re-considering the matter as best he could, his Lordship would arrive once again at the conclusion he had expressed in *Salevon's* case. Furthermore he did not accept that the reasonable excuse must necessarily involve the wrongful act of another or unforeseeable and inescapable misfortune.

He could not conclude that on the basis of the findings, the chairman had been wrong in law

to decide that the taxpayer had a reasonable excuse. He would dismiss the appeal.

The Master of the Rolls delivered a concurring judgment.

LORD JUSTICE SCOTT agreed with Lord Justice Nolan that section 33(2)(a) did not prevent the reason for an insufficiency of funds being put forward as a reasonable excuse for the purposes of section 19(6).

However, in his Lordship's judgment, the reason must amount to something more than that the taxpayer's business had been carried on unprofitably or that con-

ditions of trade produced cash flow problems. Absent some unforeseeable or inescapable event, cash flow problems were, in his opinion, barred by section 33(2)(a) from constituting a reasonable excuse.

On the facts as found by the tribunal, the inevitable conclusion was that the late payment by Redbridge Borough Council was not capable of constituting a reasonable excuse for Mr Steptoe's late payment of VAT.

He would have allowed the appeal.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

## Sentence cut

### Regina v Bigley (Stephen)

### Regina v Bigley (Derek Roy)

Where a defendant's sentence reflected a reduction because of the element of entrapment involved in his commission of an offence, a second defendant, who had been recruited by the first, was also entitled to a similar reduction.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Lloyd, Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Latham) so stated on July 3 in allowing appeals by Stephen Bigley and Derek Roy Bigley against sentences imposed in September 1991 at Carlisle Crown Court (Judge Mahon, QC) for two counts of supplying a Class B drug (amphetamine) for which Stephen Bigley was sentenced to concurrent sentences totalling three years imprisonment, and one count of being concerned in the supply of a

Class B drug (amphetamine) for which Derek Roy Bigley was sentenced to 18 months.

MR JUSTICE TUDOR EVANS said that the appellants were involved in supplying a large quantity of amphetamine to an undercover police officer.

There was no doubt that in the case of Stephen Bigley there was evidence of entrapment which the court accepted should be reflected in a reduction in his sentence.

The appropriate reduction was one-third. Accordingly, the sentence of three years imprisonment would be reduced to two years.

The second defendant, who was recruited by his brother, was also entitled to a similar reduction, so that his sentence would be reduced from 18 months imprisonment to 12.

## Sears Investment Trust Ltd and Others v Lewis's Group Ltd (in liquidation) and Another

Before Mr Justice Harman  
(Judgment July 31)

A principal, who had terminated an agent's authority to act for specific purposes, while encouraging that agent to seek instructions in the same manner from a new client, could not thereafter claim that the agent still owed him a duty of loyalty.

Mr Justice Harman so held in the Chancery Division in dismissing an appeal by Sears Investment Trust Ltd, Sears Group Ltd and Selfridges (Oxford) Ltd.

Mr Charles Sparrow, QC, and Mr Ian Gainger for the plaintiffs, Sears Investment Trust Ltd, Sears Group Ltd and Selfridges (Oxford) Ltd.

Mr David Blunt, QC, and Mr Jeremy Nicholson for Gerald Eve, the first defendant, were not represented.

MR JUSTICE HARMAN said that until May 27, 1988 the second defendant, the Sears Group Ltd (Sears) had been named Lewis's Ltd and the first defendant, who had taken over that name, had been named Pergade Ltd, changing its name again on March 15, 1989 to Lewis's Group Ltd (LGL).

Sears had occupied a store in Glasgow, paying rates by reference to a rateable value of £1,644 million in the years 1985-6-7-8.

On the instructions of the plaintiffs' parent company, Gerald Eve had until May 3, 1988 pursued on Sears' behalf an appeal against the rateable value. The terms of their agency, agreed in 1984, did not require them, and they had no obligation to take part in the recovery of overpaid rates.

On May 9, 1988 a complex agreement between the plaintiffs and LGL provided for the transfer of the Glasgow store to LGL (and his Lordship held that the right to recover overpaid rates up to that date had not been thereby transferred to LGL).

Also on May 9, by virtue of a telephone conversation between representatives of Gerald Eve and Sears, later supplemented by letter, Sears told Gerald Eve in future to take instructions from a Mr Stuart, a director of LGL, thus terminating Gerald Eve's agency in relation to that store. Thereafter, Gerald Eve had acted in the rating appeal as agents for LGL.

On March 16, 1989 a local valuation panel had allowed that appeal, so that £615,701.91 fell due to be repaid. On April 6 Gerald Eve, on Mr Stuart's instructions, wrote to the rating authority seeking that repayment.

On May 11, a Scottish partner of Gerald Eve, who still acted for Sears in relation to other property, mentioned the success of the appeal to a Sears official, observed that Gerald Eve were pressing for the refund, adding that he "suspected Sears will be due an element of this".

However, Sears had made no request to the rating authority that it should be repaid any of the

rebate by the time that the authority sent its cheque for the whole refund to Mr Stuart of LGL, which duly paid Gerald Eve's fees.

In his Lordship's judgment, Sears' express encouragement of Gerald Eve to seek instructions to act for LGL in relation to the Glasgow store carried by necessary implication an acknowledgment that thereafter Gerald Eve owed LGL all the duties of an agent and had to act on LGL's instructions.

In those circumstances, Sears could no longer claim that Gerald Eve owed it any duty of loyalty; it had to be implied that such duty must attach to the new principal

alone. No agent could be required to serve two masters in the same matter without clear agreement and the knowledge of both principals.

By parity of reasoning Sears' claim in negligence also failed, since it was impossible to hold that Gerald Eve owed a duty of care to Sears, even though at one time its agent, when lawfully acting on behalf of their new client and principal. The action was accordingly dismissed.

Solicitors: Tilmuss Sainer & Webb; Berryman.

## Late statement

### Barton and Another v Care and Others

The statement referred to in section 2(2) of the Mobile Homes Act 1983 included a written statement which had not been given within three months after the making of an agreement between the owner of a protected site and the occupier of a mobile home thereon to which the Act applied, whether given pursuant to an order of the court under section 1(5) or otherwise.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Woolf and Lord Justice Staughton) so held on July 3 allowing the appeal of Charles and Anita Louise Barton from Judge Holt at Lancaster County Court who, on August 15, 1991, had held that the late service of a written statement did not bring section 2(2) into operation.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that there was no clear guidance in the 1983 Act as to whether an owner was free to provide a written statement at a late date but it was clear that under section 1(5) the court had power to require the owner to provide a statement if he failed to do so under section 1(2).

Once a written statement was provided after a court order, that enabled the court's jurisdiction to be invoked under section 2. If that was correct, then the words of section 2(2) could not be limited to cases where the written statement was given punctually within the time prescribed by section 1(2) and included a written statement not within the time limit.

Thus the giving of a written statement, although late and made voluntarily, brought into operation section 2(2) and (3).

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# Mediate and save a million

Frances Gibb on  
the success of a  
centre that helps  
companies to stay  
out of court and  
reduce legal costs

British companies are quietly saving a fortune by taking disputes to mediation instead of going to court. The Centre for Dispute Resolution, one of the UK pioneers of mediation, estimates that since its launch with CBI backing 18 months ago, mediation has saved companies more than £30 million in legal costs, quite apart from savings in management time.

The figures will be released this week when the centre gives an update to companies on its work in the fast-growing sphere of alternative dispute resolution. So far, 150 disputes have been referred to the centre, involving a total of £500 million, on anything from copyright to contracts, patents to property and shipping to services.

Alternative dispute resolution, or settling disputes outside the traditional courtroom, is still fairly new in Britain but has become fashionable. It is also welcomed by government ministers who appreciate the cost savings and speed when compared with litigation, and by legal professionals.

The centre has enjoyed much success in its short existence. It boasts membership of 245 companies and organisations, including ICI, Reed International, Vickers, Sony and Ciba-Geigy. A wide range of law firms makes up nearly half of the members.

In one recent case, settlement was reached on one day of mediation in a dispute involving £20 million. The case had been set down for an eight-week trial to determine liability over breach of contract and a negligence claim, brought by a manufacturing and distributive company against a product design consultancy.

Dr Karl Mackie, the centre's chief executive, says: "It is really the business equivalent of what Aas does for industrial relations disputes. In business, there are still massive costs in the way disputes are managed, particularly if they end up with litigation. The potential savings are huge."



The centre's work is industry-led. Most of the cases so far have been in the construction industry, followed by commercial disputes. But the centre has also handled disputes in banking, family businesses, intellectual property, sports and local government.

The centre became involved in one £5 million dispute about insurance negligence, which had already been through heavy litigation. Multi-party appeals were cancelled, saving £500,000. In another instance, involving a £1 million construction claim over electrical and mechanical installation, a one-day mediation leading to an amicable settlement saved costs of £300,000. In a third case, mediation in the Middle East settled a joint venture and partnership dispute between a British

contractor and a foreign client. After two days, a £3 million claim was withdrawn, saving both parties £250,000 each.

Most of the claims involve companies. But disputes between individuals have also been settled: a

**The centre's work is industry led. Most cases have been in the construction sector and commercial disputes**

tenant was rehoused and a council saved £500 when the centre intervened in a tenancy dispute.

This week the centre launches a new fixed-fee scheme. Mediation of disputes involving up to £50,000 will cost only £350-£450 for a day.

The idea is to remove the barrier to mediation by offering an all-in fee, says Dr Mackie. For a dispute involving more than £50,000, the average daily cost is £1,000-£1,500. The aim is to help parties to reach a settlement, which is usually then formalised in a document.

Unlike the courts, the centre does not hand down a binding decision. Settlement has been reached in 20 per cent of cases, and a further 40 per cent are pending. However, once the parties are persuaded to sit down together, the settlement rate is 95 per cent.

The attitude of lawyers is still an obstacle to the centre's progress. Alternative dispute resolution is actively promoted by some firms, such as Turner Kenneth Brown, Manches, Clifford Chance, Rowe & Maw in London, and Dibb Lupton

Broomhead and Browne Jacobson outside, as well as firms in Scotland and Ireland. But many are still reluctant. Although law firms have signed up as backers of the Centre for Dispute Resolution, Dr Mackie suggests that many do so as "defensive marketing".

Firms appreciate that if they can offer the option of alternative resolution (which does not preclude litigation later), then they widen the service they provide, which may mean more satisfied clients. Yet there is "an inevitable tension", says Dr Mackie, for avoiding litigation reduces fees. "It took ten years for this to get off the ground in the States. We are introducing a radical new approach to dispute management, and inevitably there is some reluctance to go down the mediation route. But we feel we have already made pretty significant inroads."

## No more easy jobs in industry

The recession is clearly taking its toll on the legal job market. There is now a "grim acceptance" among young solicitors of the realities of the job market, and a recognition that many of them will have to abandon the law, says legal recruitment consultant Simon Hankey of the Robert Walters Agency. In general, it is the newly qualified lawyers and those with up to three years' experience who are being hit hardest, but not even partners are immune.

The most telling result, however, of the sharp drop in opportunities is that recruitment by companies has tailed off sharply. Mr Hankey surveyed 600 industrial and commercial organisations which used to recruit lawyers regularly, and found that half of them have taken on no fresh staff for more than a year; nor do they expect their activities to pick up for at least another 18 months. A

quarter of companies have reduced their legal teams in the past two years. Competition for vacancies in industry and commerce, which once offered a haven for the lawyer who had failed to find a niche in a partnership, is now becoming just as tough.

Employers themselves are benefiting considerably. From being in a seller's market in the 1980s, they now have the chance to be more precise and specific about their needs. Rather than choosing the first candidate who looks reasonably suitable, they are waiting until exactly the right person appears. "Employers are looking for solicitors who want to make a positive move into industry, rather than treating it as a career filler," says Mr Hankey. "And they want people with broadly based legal skills, rather than anything too specialist."

Paradoxically, the more blue chip your pedigree, the less well it may be regarded. Solicitors who have trained in the largest firms are regarded with caution, because they may already have become narrow in outlook. Also,

their client contact may have been limited. Instead, companies tend to favour the lawyer who has trained with a good quality, second-tier City firm. "As service departments within large organisations, lawyers within industry must go out and sell themselves to their internal clients," says Mr Hankey. "You have to be good at establishing relationships with your non-lawyer colleagues, and be able to interpret very quickly how you can help them. If your experience has been as a backroom person in a big City practice, you may not find that very easy."

Women are being conspicuously successful in the transition into industry. The suspicion that they face barriers to partnership predisposes many of them to look more positively at company work in the first place. And many of them are good at establishing co-operative internal relationships. "Our experience is that more women than men have successfully moved across into companies," says Mr Hankey. However, self-confidence and presentation skills are essential. In an effort to cut costs, in-house lawyers are being required to take on increasing amounts of work. In negotiations, they will need to come up with workable legal solutions quickly, rather than producing a series of finely balanced options.

When companies do recruit, they generally offer more attractive financial deals than in the past. Financial institutions, for example, usually offer a package of benefits better than those of many City firms.

Perhaps the biggest shock facing lawyers moving from private practice into industry is that they no longer enjoy any special status. The smugness of many partners in private practice simply will not wash in business. The lawyer is just one of a number of professionals, and he must prove to his employer and colleagues the value of his contribution.

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Medium/large City firm without a specialist pensions partner seeks a senior lawyer with minimum five years' pensions expertise to develop a new specialist unit as part of its Employee Benefits Group. Immediate salaried partnership for the right candidate.

To receive additional information on any of the vacancies outlined above, or for a completely confidential and expert career discussion, please contact Jonathan Macrae or Jonathan Brenner (both solicitors) on 071-377 0510 (071-226 1558 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential Fax 071-247 5174.

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Extremely profitable medium-sized City practice seeks additional partner for development of fledgling telecoms practice as part of busy commercial group with strong pan-European client portfolio. Clear business plan and strong existing base.

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Small/medium-sized Central London firm seeking to establish specialist employment unit seeks experienced practitioner with contentious and non-contentious skills for key new position. Immediate partnership for the right individual. Personal connections/clients a major advantage.

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Innovative City firm with extremely successful IP practice seeks patent agent, now trained or training as a lawyer, to assist with the development and marketing of a specialist in-house patents function. Chemistry or other scientific background a major advantage. Highly competitive City salary package.

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**ZMB**

### British Heart Foundation The heart research charity

#### LEGAL ADVISER

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A lawyer is now required to be based at the WI Head Office to take responsibility for the diverse legal issues which the Foundation encounters. Responsibilities will include monitoring and advising on contracts and agreements with commercial organisations in connection with fund raising and sponsorship. Intellectual property issues arise from the use of the Foundation's name and/or logo. There is a property element which includes liaising with outside advisers in respect of the Foundation's rapidly expanding portfolio. A willingness to develop an understanding of tax law as it relates to charities is also required.

The successful applicant will possess a sound legal training and at least 3 years' experience of a general commercial nature.

For further information please contact our Consultant Jonathan Macrae, on 071-377 0510 (071-226 1558 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential Fax 071-247 5174.

**ZMB**

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A large/medium sized City practice with an enviable reputation for their litigation work are seeking to develop their company/commercial department by recruiting a partner with a following or by bolting on a small team. The existing company department is already larger than the departments in many other medium sized firms and offers the ideal base for future development.

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A solicitor who has gained broad banking experience with a large City firm is sought by an expanding thirty partner City firm to handle syndicated and single bank loans, general secured lending and some trade finance. Partnership in the medium term would be offered to the right candidate.

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1-3 Years Qualified - £47,500

A large international firm requires a solicitor with general company and commercial experience to join its small London office. Preference will be given to applicants currently with top City firms particularly those with international experience. Excellent long term prospects and scope for travel.

#### Intellectual Property

Newly Qual. to 2 Years Qual. - £39,000

A large City firm is seeking a solicitor, preferably with some post admission intellectual property experience, to handle a non-contentious caseload mainly from engineering, electronics and chemical companies. A science background is not essential but if newly qualified at least six months' IP experience is vital.

#### Commercial Litigation

Partner Level - £150,000

A large provincial practice is seeking a senior solicitor to assist in the development of its busy commercial litigation department in their London office. A candidate with a good following will be offered immediate salaried partnership, or in exceptional cases immediate equity. Excellent long term prospects with this very profitable practice.

#### Insolvency

4 Years Qualified - £53,000

A medium sized City firm going from strength to strength with an expanding, strong insolvency practice is seeking a senior solicitor, preferably with City experience to assist a focused practitioner with a broad range of contentious insolvency work. A more senior candidate may be considered.

#### Commercial Litigation

2-3 Years Qualified - £43,000

A top City firm with a large litigation department requires a solicitor with 2 to 3 years' experience to join this busy group handling commercial disputes including some insolvency, fraud and white collar crime. The successful candidate will be required to work largely unsupervised.

#### Corporate Tax

1-2 Years Qualified - £37,000

A solicitor with between 1 and 2 years' experience of corporate tax is required by a top City firm to advise PLC and private company clients on the structuring of acquisitions, joint ventures and group restructurings, etc to minimise exposure to corporation tax, CGT and VAT. Strong blue chip client base.

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Legal Recruitment Consultants

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If you would like to find out more, please call Christina Graham on 071-702 2345 for an informal discussion and a copy of our information pack, or write to her, enclosing a curriculum vitae, at Cameron Markby Hewitt, Sceptre Court, 40 Tower Hill, London EC3N 4BB.









ONE of the most pleasing aspects of the current season has been the emergence of David Harrison as a rider of great promise.

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1010 spectrophotometer. The concentration of chlorophyll was expressed in  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  of the sample.

### Rain check: heavy showers would jeopardise Rodrigo De Triano's prospects in Ascot's feature race

## BOLA gives all-clear on payout

... ..

responsibility NW11.

<b>MANDARIN</b>	<b>THUNDERER</b>
2.00 The Gold Souk.	2.00 Ample.
2.30 Atherton Green.	2.30 <b>LATIN LEADER</b> (nap).
3.00 Heavenly Waters.	3.00 Heavenly Waters.
3.30 Primo Figlio.	3.30 Primo Figlio.
4.00 Pluck.	4.00 Pluck.
4.30 <b>Jumaira Star.</b>	4.30 <b>Algaari.</b>
5.00 Ryewater Dream.	5.00 Miss Aragon.

GONG: GOOD DRAW: 65 1500 UNCL NUMBERS BEST

## 200

2.00		SIBTHORPE STARTING STAKES		
(2-Y-O. 52.826. 1m 54yds) (20 runners)				
1	(1)	0506	EN ENIGMA 5 (M) (ex) D. Jones 1-1	R. Raymond
2	(2)	0508	EL LINDO 5 (G) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	T. Lucas
3	(3)	0509	AMANTYAN DANCE 5 (ex) (ex) D. Jones 1-1	S. Denton
4	(4)	4055	PRINCE OF THE SILENT 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	M. Birch
5	(5)	4056	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild
6	(6)	4057	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild
7	(7)	4058	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild
8	(8)	4059	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild
9	(9)	4060	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild
10	(10)	4061	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild
11	(11)	4062	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild
12	(12)	4063	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild
13	(13)	4064	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild
14	(14)	4065	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild
15	(15)	4066	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild
16	(16)	4067	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild
17	(17)	4068	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild
18	(18)	4069	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild
19	(19)	4070	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild
20	(20)	4071	THE GILDED 5 (ex) (ex) M. McCann 1-1	R. Hild

000

[illegible]

1981. KEEP IN MIND 9-2 J Read (7-1) J changed 15 Jan

3.00 NOTTINGHAM GOOSE FAIR HANDICAP			
(22.31; 1m 61 15yd) (20 runners)			
19	063306	SHOOZE 22 (P.C.E.S.) (A) Jubilee 11 Miles 4-10	R Raymond
20	221514	PROSQUENDO 12 (Q) (M) Dancer 11 Miles 5-9	M Pearce
21	008304	AGRESS 281 28 (P) (M) E. Windmill 8 Bobs 5-8	M Tabb
22	012726	LEGAL LOWER 36 (P) (M) E. Windmill 8 Bobs 3-4	M Tabb
23	008305	AGRESS 281 28 (P) (M) E. Windmill 8 Bobs 3-4	D Hadden
24	214008	TARDIS 15 (P) (M) A. F. Laker 11 Miles 4-8	G Hobb
25	3001	SOLE CONTROL 35 (M) A. F. Laker 11 Miles 4-8	R Dawson
26	005909	YOUNGS GINGER 17 (P) (Q) W. Wymann-Windmill 8 Dots 5-7	T Jern
27	024304	WYNN 281 28 (P) (M) W. Wymann-Windmill 8 Dots 5-7	T Jern
28	012524	JOEY AND JERRY 11 (P) (M) K. Petherick 30 Miles 3-7	R Quinn
29	014113	HAMBY LASTY 10 (P) (M) Betty S. J. Ramon 30 Miles 3-7	G Baxter
30	008225	SPENCERS MARSHAL 20 (P) (M) M. S. J. Ramon 30 Miles 3-7	G Avery
31	008226	SPENCERS MARSHAL 20 (P) (M) M. S. J. Ramon 30 Miles 3-7	G Avery
32	003629	JOHN SHAW 21 (P) (M) M. S. J. Ramon 30 Miles 3-7	P Barrie
33	008040	ROYAL NERSE 17 (P) (M) S. Lyndon 8 Cider 4-12	R Hensley
34	009000	WILLIE 281 28 (M) W. Wymann-Windmill 8 Dots 5-7	P Robinson
35	008001	WYNN 281 28 (P) (M) W. Wymann-Windmill 8 Dots 5-7	P Robinson
36	010503	GERALD 22 (P) (M) W. Wymann-Windmill 8 Dots 5-7	A Gault
37	001140	ANAR 3 (P) (M) Dots 11 Miles 4-8	F Hadden
38	0008	OTZALLWOTWOT 10 (P) (M) J. M. M. 3-7	S Wood

1991: SATIN LOVER 3-7-5 F Norton (8-1) R Alzaburst 16 ran

3.30		TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION SERIES STAKES		
(Qualifier: 2-Y-O: 6-15; 61-15yd) (24 runners)				
1	(19)	CUTTINGWIND 10 (D) S Savoy S Hutton 8-11		N Doran
2	(16)	MICO MISS (E. Scazz) P Chapple-Hume 8-10		J Field
3	(18)	MAR CURIE 6-0 (G) Oaks D Anderson 9 Cdn 8-9		R Gaudin
4	(20)	PRECDUSION 10 (D) Tully H Armstrong 8-8		B Woodley
5	(17)	PRANSKY 10-0 (D) Scazz P Chapple-Hume 8-8		R Pearson 20
6	(20)	GANGLEADER 7 (V) Spence M Wood 8-8		A Crossley
7	(15)	SIMPLY SWEET 2-0 (S) Spence M W Eastaugh 8-8		L Charnock
8	(17)	BOLD LUN (Chester Park) Scott W Williams 8-8		M Hills
9	(18)	PRIMA PACE 10 (D) Scazz P Chapple-Hume 8-7		B Durrant
10	(20)	SILVER GOODWILL 13 (S) P Loo A Evans 8-7		D Weight 7
11	(20)	WRENTHILL 6-0 (H) (A) Brack C Tinkler 8-7		M Birch
12	(10)	IL MIO DI MINEZIA 11 (D) Scazz P Chapple-Hume 8-7		A Clark
13	(18)	PRING TUN 10-0 (D) Scazz P Chapple-Hume 8-7		L Lucas
14	(13)	CHARRIUS 2-0 (E) Agrawal J Brando 8-7		G O'Flaherty
15	(21)	ALIZZ BIAMCO 10 (D) (A) Boden H Holder 8-7		F Norton 23
16	(20)	DRABMISTON 12-0 (D) Barnard G Lewis 8-7		L Lowe
17	(18)	CHIEF 10-0 (D) Scazz P Chapple-Hume 8-7		B Durrant
18	(11)	KENSLEY WORTH 14-0 (E) P Moulton M Starched 8-7		D Holland
19	(20)	WELSH PET 4-0 (Tr) ex Heart P Mackinnon 8-7		A Munn

21 (17) DO MORE THAN LOVE 7 (C Wright) P Ramsey B-1 J Carroll  
33 (16) O BECKYMANNAH 21 (T Pusi) B Bestman B-0 Dean McKeown

[illegible]

4 (13) 4460 JUMAFA STAR 18 (M) (A Al-Maldoun) J Seaton 9-D ..... L Pignatelli 9

[illegible]

9 (14) 060403 TIERHAM VOKEN 18 (Mrs S Burley) J Bethell 4-8-7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 Duffield 1  
10 (12) 642002 MISE AZAGOM 14 (D G (J Chatterdown) Miss J Sigall 4-8-7 \_\_\_\_\_ J Wagner (5)

[illegible]

R Baslman	5	29	17.2	D Holland	5	50	10.0
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**Knifebox wins**

KNIFEBOX (Darryll Holland) continued John Gosden's fine run with an all-the-way victory in the group three La Coupe de Maisons-Laffitte in France yesterday.

The winner beat Steinbeck by three-quarters of a length, and paid odds of 5-4 on, coupled with the runner-up.

[illegible]

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## SQUASH RACKETS

# Omission inspires Harris to score emphatic victory

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN JOHANNESBURG

DEL Harris secured a straight games victory over the local favourite in the first round of the world open championship here yesterday, and then declared himself determined to embarrass the English Squash Rackets Association (ESRA) by playing as well as possible in South Africa.

Ranked third on the latest England list, and one place behind Peter Marshall, the British champion, on the world list, Harris, 23, seeded tenth here, has been excluded from the England squad for a three-match series against South Africa immediately after the world open.

"The really infuriating part about it is the fact that I was partly responsible for putting the series together," Harris said after defeating Craig van der Wath 15-9, 15-7, 15-13 in 41 minutes. "I came out here at the end of May with Chris Walker, joining Tony Hands, who arrived even earlier to acclimatise. We put the plan together with Sue Cogswell, of Squash South Africa, with the idea of playing in it ourselves."

Harris said that Cogswell, a former England international but a long-time resident of South Africa, contacted the ESRA, which insisted the team should be an official selection.

"The next thing I heard was a rumour that neither Tony nor myself were going to be in the team," Harris said. He rang Andrew Shelley at the ESRA, and says he was told he had been overlooked in the selection made by Jonah Barrington and Paul Wright, the

national coaches, of a squad comprising Peter Marshall, Simon Parke, Chris Walker and Philip Whitlock, which will be managed by Stuart Courtney, a former international and a member of the SRA council.

Harris has been a central part of England teams coached by Barrington, and managed by Wright since he won the world junior championship under their guidance in 1988. His unexpected defeat last May by Colin Keith, the Scotland second string, was a vital element in England's first defeat at the semi-final stage of a European team championship.

"Perhaps that is why they have dropped me for this series," Harris said. "Whatever the case, I aim to prove a thing or two here."

His task could hardly be more difficult, with Rodney Martin, of Australia, his scheduled second-round opponent. "I have beaten Rodney two or three times, although I have to admit he has had the better of our record. This would be the perfect time and place to beat him again," Harris said.

Certainly, the determined victory by Harris provided a much needed lift for British spirits here.

Simon Parke, 20, the Yorkshire player who succeeded Harris as world junior champion, was named for the international matches in Durban, East London and Cape Town, was roundly defeated later by Austin Adarraga, a Spanish qualifier.

Adarraga trained with the Australian Institute of Squash, but returned to live in his father's country after a horrifying motor accident from which recovery took the better part of two years. There was much Australian support around his match.

Parke was seeded thirteenth here, perhaps ominously, and was fanned to trouble Ross Norman in the second round, and perhaps even for Jahangir Khan later on.

In fact, he failed almost completely to contain the unrestrained attack from Adarraga, who defeated Craig Wapnick of South Africa, in the qualifying finals and dispatched Parke 15-10, 15-9, 15-5 in 54 minutes.

Adarraga may have taken heart from the success of Mark Carlyn, an old friend from the Australian Institute, who launched a similar display of stroke invention against Jason Nicolle, the sixteenth seed and another loser in the European match against Scotland, to win 15-4, 15-10, 11-15, 14-17, 15-4.

Adrian Davies, the Welsh No. 1, lost in typically argumentative style, 15-9, 10-15, 15-12, 14-17, 15-10, to Norman, the 1986 world champion seeded seventh, and Danny Meddings, of Surrey, went down in straight games to the fifth seed, Brett Martin of Australia.

RESULTS: First round: R Norman (NZ) bt A Davies (Wales), 15-9, 10-15, 15-12, 14-17, 15-10; M Carlyn (Aus) bt J Nicolle (Eng), 15-4, 15-10, 11-15, 14-17, 15-4; B Martin (Aus) bt D Meddings (Eng), 15-11, 15-9, 15-8; D Hearn (Eng) bt C van der Wath (SA), 15-9, 15-7, 15-13; A Adarraga (Sp) bt S Parke (Eng), 15-10, 15-9, 15-5.

## MOTOR RALLYING

## Kankkunen opens way for Auriol

Perth: Didier Auriol looked set to win the Australian rally ahead of his Lancia teammate, Juha Kankkunen, after the Finn fell behind with broken suspension and a jammed wheel during the third leg yesterday.

The Frenchman, eight points ahead of Carlos Sainz, of Spain, will also increase his lead in the world drivers' championship with a sixth rally win this year.

Kankkunen, winner of all three previous Australian rallies, fell 2min 39sec behind after his Lancia Integrale was almost crippled by a rock during the 24th stage on dirt roads 60km from Perth. The world champion cracked his rear suspension and lost two minutes completing the stage with a jammed wheel.

Sainz is third in his Toyota Celica, ten seconds behind Kankkunen going into today's final four stages of the 35-stage race.

RESULTS: Third day (after 31 of 35 special stages): 1, D Auriol (Fr), Lancia Integrale, 4hr 29min 32sec; 2, J Kankkunen (Fin), Lancia Integrale, 4hr 29min 42sec; 3, C Sainz (Sp), Toyota Celica, 4hr 29min 52sec; 4, J Hearn (Eng), Lancia Integrale, 4hr 30min 02sec; 5, R Davidson (Aus), Mitsubishi Galant, 4hr 30min 05sec; 6, E Davidson (Aus), Mitsubishi Galant, 4hr 30min 10sec.

## FOOTBALL

## Security headache for World Cup

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

New York: World Cup organisers said yesterday they will attempt to prevent supporters with a history of violence from entering the United States during the 1994 tournament in an effort to combat hooliganism.

The officials also said they were considering the possibility of segregating fans by nationality inside the nine stadiums to be used for the 52-game tournament. They have ruled out the possibility of a large military force to provide security, but intended to have fast-response teams available in reserve.

"This is America. This is not a police state and we're not going to turn it into one," Alan Rothenberg, chairman of World Cup USA 1994, said.

Rothenberg said security would be the most expensive item for the tournament. Edgar N. Best was hired yesterday as senior vice-president for security. He was director of security for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, overseeing an \$80 million budget.

"I'm not guaranteeing that we won't have an incident,"

Best said. "It would be foolish to do that. We will not be able to anticipate everything. This is a strange world."

At the 1990 World Cup in Italy, up to 4,000 police and military personnel, many of them carrying machine guns, were used. There were three minor incidents, all outside the stadiums, but tear gas was used.

Supporters from England, Germany and Holland have caused problems at European matches, vandalising town centres, ferries and trains during drunken rampages. European police identified many of the troublemakers and prevented most of them from going to the 1990 tournament in Italy.

Best said he anticipated hooligans would attempt to come to the US tournament scheduled for June 17 to July 17, 1994. He consulted with European police when he attended the 1990 World Cup.

It has not been decided whether to use fencing to separate fans from the field and from each other. Best added.



## Penn brings England equality

Rising fortunes: Jo Sladen, right, strives for possession against the Canadian, Michelle Gisinger, as the Young England lacrosse team yesterday held the experienced Canadian women's touring side to a 9-9 draw in the first game of the English leg of their British tour at Milton Keynes (Peter Tatlow writes).

Young England had the

edge, leading by one goal through the game before going behind until the final stages when Bella Penn, of North Territory, scored the two goals needed for England's parity. Getenna Lowth scored four, Kate Hollings two and Clare Taylor one.

Canada, still smarting from three defeats in Scotland, hoped for better things in

England. Yesterday's draw was a shock before meeting England Seniors at Berkhampstead tomorrow and Kingston-upon-Thames on Friday.

All the leading lacrosse countries have their eyes set on the world championships in Scotland in August and Canada have derived little comfort from this month's tour of Britain.

## BOXING

## Duff delivers offer to Eubank

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

MICKEY Duff, the London promoter, has offered Chris Eubank £200,000 to defend his World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title against Herol Graham, the British middleweight champion, at Wembley, if the Sheffield boxer wins his title defence against Frank Grant at Leeds tomorrow.

"It is a very good offer," Duff said, "but if Barry Hearn (Eubank's promoter) doesn't want me to promote it, but wants to promote it himself, he

can have the fight if he pays Graham £10,000 training expenses."

Graham said: "I want to fight Eubank because I don't want to retire as the best middleweight in Britain never to have won a world title."

Frank Warren, the promoter, yesterday made his last move to bring together Colin McMillan and Paul Hodgkinson in a world featherweight unification bout.

Warren offered a joint £400,000 purse, plus a

£25,000 bonus to the winner, and appealed to Hodgkinson's manager, B.J. Eastwood, to get the bout on "for the good of British boxing."

Warren said: "The fight is only worth what it can generate. We have got to have cash common sense in these days of recession. It's twice what Paul has earned before. If he wants to fight on neutral territory, it could go to Birmingham, and I'm prepared to co-promote with Eastwood to get the fight I'd most like to see."

## GOLF

## Roe relishes role of a seriously successful golfer

FROM MEL WEBB IN VERSAILLES

YOU could tell that winning the Lancôme Trophy was not likely to change Mark Roe's outlook on life fewer than 60 seconds after his behind hit the seat for his post-victory interview on Sunday.

"Mark is this the biggest win of your life?" came the question. Fifty pairs of lips in the room mouthed the words. "Of course it is; don't ask such bloomin' daft questions."

Roe, on the other hand, appeared to accord his interlocutor the sort of mature reflection that the question definitely did not deserve, took one more reflective breath, then replied without allowing himself the merest hint of a smile. "Well, I did win a couple of Sheffield and District Alliances last winter. He had to say no more. This was Mark Roe Mark I, all right. Why worry about a Mark II version when the original is still capable of producing high-quality material like that?"

No, victory — he won £79,000 at St-Nom-la-Brette for his second Volvo Tour win — will not change Mark Roe one little bit. And for that we can all breathe a hearty vote of thanks.

Roe is a one-off. A 6ft son of Sheffield, who now lives in Dronfield, in Derbyshire, this pencil-thin man whose unruly blond locks and a face on which a smile is never more than a nano-second away make him look years younger than his 29 years, is a can't-help-it joker off the fairways.

Even on the practice ground he is not above the odd fourth form remove joke now and then.

But watch him on the golf course, anywhere from the first tee to his last stroke on the 18th green, and you will have some trouble believing you are watching the same man.

Because, and make no mistake about this, Mark Roe is seriously devoted to his job, and once out on the course the fierce and committed competitor that is never far from the surface consigns the Mr Hyde that is a separate but inextricable part of his character to the lockers room. There to wait until Dr Jekyll rejoins him a few hours later.

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## CRICKET: NEWCOMERS REFLECT ON A SEASON WHICH ENDED IN DISAPPOINTMENT

## Durham catch up with reality

BY PETER BALL

BACK in April, Durham embarked on their first season as a first-class county with high hopes in front of a euphoric crowd of 6,000. Last Tuesday, 300 watched the last rites at a windswept Low Fell as their team was once again outclassed.

Durham plunged to their tenth defeat and finished bottom of the championship, 36 points behind the seventeenth club, Worcestershire. "We hadn't realised the gulf between a minor county and the first-class game," Don Robson, the Durham chairman, was reported to have said. Geoff Cook, the director of cricket, and his captain, David Graveney, had few such illusions but, for a time, the euphoria seemed well-founded.

Durham were briefly third in the championship and reached the quarter-finals of the NatWest Trophy, their second-round win over Middlesex standing out as one of the performances of the season. But Dean Jones, the mainstay of their batting,

missed the quarter-final before heading back home to join the Australian team, injuries took their toll, and the decline was swift.

"Expectations were raised beyond realism after the first four weeks," Cook said. "To be itinerant, without a home ground, in your first year was stretching our resources desperately and the coaching network has to be refined and enlarged. If this area wants to produce first-class players, it has to be more specialised."

In the long term, Durham's future seems assured. "To see 800 to 900 turn up to watch our second team play makes you realise you're sitting in an area of massive potential," Cook said. But for the time being the building process goes on.

Graveney, who began the season looking forward to "a great adventure", is unrepentant. "I didn't expect the job to be any easier than it was," he insisted, "but in terms of ability, a mid-table place was not too far out of reach." As the season progressed, though, with injuries and weariness setting in, age and

inexperience told against them. "We had the situation where we played very well early on," he reflected. "Every one of the young players who came into the side did well and that was backed up by Botham challenging for an England place."

As the pressure told, however, the young players found themselves too much in the firing line. Jones's departure was exacerbated by the fact that Botham's edge had worn off after his early relish for a new challenge had briefly overcome the aging process.

Botham had filled seats and sold memberships but his contribution in the latter half of the season was a disappointment to supporters. "Ian is struggling," Cook agreed. "You've almost got to predict his good days and capitalise on them."

Other injuries also raised the question of the team's fitness and Graveney will make physical fitness a priority when the team begins preparations next month. Yet Cook still believes that physical fitness was only part of the

problem. "Our biggest failing this year was an inability to stay the pace," he said.

How Hutton, an opening batsman, Wood, a powerful fast bowler, and Henderson, an all-rounder, respond to their difficult introductions to the first-class game will determine Durham's success next season. So will the continuing enthusiasm of the core of experienced players. "Morale has stood up remarkably well in the circumstances," Graveney said.



Graveney: unrepentant

## Hemmings decides to join Sussex

EDDIE Hemmings, the 43-year-old former England off-spinner, has joined Sussex on a two-year contract after being released by Nottinghamshire.

Hemmings, who has appeared in 16 Tests during 13 years with Nottinghamshire, is the oldest player on the county circuit but last played for England only two years ago.

Meanwhile, Hampshire were ready to sign Martin Jean-Jacques, from Derbyshire yesterday.

□ Martyn Moxon, the Yorkshire captain, set out on a 300 mile walk round the Broad Acres yesterday. (Martin Scarby writes).

Moxon, 32, will visit 20 towns in an effort to raise at least half the £100,000 needed by Killingbeck Hospital in Leeds to build a new care centre for babies who have undergone heart surgery.

"It's not quite in the Ian Botham league as charity walks go but it's a pretty daunting prospect for me," Moxon said.

## Peking has its doubts

Peking's sports facilities, many of them developed for the 1990 Asian Games, were inadequate for the Olympics, the Beijing Youth News said yesterday in an article on the city's prospects of being given the 2000 Games. It noted that at next year's vote Europe will have 40 votes and Asia 20.

## McKay's trophy

Cycling: Second place in the 106-mile Solihull Classic on Sunday enabled Mark McKay, of Northampton, to win the season-long road racing competition, the Star Trophy. His 50 points placed him ahead of John Tanner (38) and John Charlesworth (32).

## Rally death

Motor rallying: A Chinese official became the third fatality of the Paris-Moscow-Beijing rally yesterday when his vehicle hit an unlit lorry parked in the middle of the road near Shanshan, the starting point for the sixteenth stage, the first stage in the Gobi desert.

## Female touch

Shooting: Corporal Julia

## RUGBY LEAGUE

## Leigh reject approach for Topping

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

CASTLEFORD yesterday placed Graham Southernwood, the Great Britain under-21 hooker, on the transfer list at £50,000 after having a player-exchange approach rejected by Leigh for the utility back, Paul Topping, who is now interesting Salford.

Ian Lucas, the Great Britain and Wigan forward, is likely to miss the home game against Widnes on Friday after injuring ligaments in the back of his knee during Sunday's win at Wakefield Trinity, and could be missing for several weeks if an examination tomorrow should pinpoint more serious damage.

The British Amateur Rugby League Association has set aside its threat of legal action against the Rugby Football League and has established a new negotiating committee to try to settle the long-running and increasingly bitter dispute over which body, amateur or professional, should control youth rugby.













**MANAGEMENT p6**  
The man who  
is putting the  
BBC under a  
microscope



# LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22 1992

**MEDIA p4**

Bosnia —  
reading  
between the  
front lines



## Group goes to the wall over art

Going to work is  
becoming a  
cultural  
experience

Texaco is not the first big corporation to acquire art, both for aesthetic reasons and as an investment. But when it moves into its new headquarters at Westferry Circus in London's Canary Wharf, the oil group will give the expression "boardroom art" a whole new dimension. Every floor of the nine-storey building will be crisscrossed with art and artefacts from 1600 to the present day.

The collection has been a secret since Texaco began to assemble it with the help of Barbara Missett, an art adviser, 20 months ago. It now numbers 550 items, is entirely British, and still growing. Texaco will not reveal how much has been spent.

Canary Wharf's financial troubles mean that it may be months before anybody can



Oil painting: a gouache and graphite on paper design by Duncan Grant

gaze up through Texaco's lofty atrium and catch a glimpse of the treasures. But today a flavour of the collection will be revealed when a loan exhibition goes on show as the centrepiece of the 20th Century British Art Fair at the Royal College of Art.

The 35 items on loan span the past 90 years, from the Bloomsbury set and postwar lyrical abstraction to the work of recent artistic luminaries such as Anish Kapoor. Among the photographs and prints are works by David Hockney and Henry Moore. The selection is intended to represent the broad scope of the collection, which now also includes two Constable mezzotints, three Whistler prints and a Gilbert and George postcard collage, as well as folk art, maps and textiles of historical significance.

"The primary aim," Ms Missett says, "is to provide stimulation for Texaco's employees. Corporate collecting is in its infancy in the UK and most companies tend just to buy traditional paintings for the boardroom. Or else someone volunteers to pick up an assortment, or work by young contemporaries, and they call it a collection."

By contrast Texaco, which already owns large collections in America and on the Continent, has thought out its British art hoard with the discipline of a battle plan. Its aims are to educate its employees, enrich the new offices and, perhaps above all, ease the culture shock for those uprooted to windswept Docklands from the company's current des res in Knightsbridge.

Among the items in the collection are two works by Duncan Grant of the Bloomsbury Group, as well as a strikingly modern design for a tapestry seat cover by Grant's mistress, Vanessa Bell, the sister of Virginia Woolf. Ms Missett, who was looking for unusual Bloomsbury designs, says: "I never expected to find anything like these. Modern British works at affordable prices have been among the hardest to acquire."

Unusually, since many big companies fear publicity will lead to theft, the collection is being catalogued and the art fair is expected to be just the first of many loans.

**ALISON BECKETT**

● The 20th Century British Art Fair runs from tomorrow to Sunday at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7. Admission £6. Wed, Thurs, Fri 11am-5pm, Sat, Sun 11am-5pm

## When truth is a hostage

Granada is under fire for its portrayal of the Beirut hostages, Patrick Stoddart reports

With the possible exception of any programme starring Jeremy Beadle, no television form comes in for more criticism than the drama documentary. Defenders argue that it is a uniquely powerful method of telling stories for which no conventional news footage exists; the critics claim it irretrievably blurs the line between fact and fiction. Accusations of foul play and inaccuracy have tumbled down on the head of almost every producer who has ever been tempted to turn a crisis into a drama.

The only organisation to have escaped such attacks has been the company that virtually invented the genre, Granada Television, where the journalism is supplied by the *World in Action* team and the drama by the people who brought you *The Jewel in the Crown*, *Brideshead Revisited* and *Coronation Street*. But now Granada is in the firing line over what began as an effort to promote public awareness of one of the more shocking passages in recent history — the taking of the Beirut hostages.

Hostages claims to describe the experiences of John McCarthy, Brian Keenan, the Americans Frank Reed, Tom Sutherland and Terry Anderson and (glancingly) Terry Waite.

Despite its unswerving compassion, the film has been publicly and bitterly disowned by virtually all of the hostages. In a jointly-signed letter to the newspapers this week, Messrs McCarthy, Keenan, Waite and Anderson accused Granada of "a serious abuse of public trust" by claiming that *Hostages* is a true story, when it contains scenes which, because of the hostages' reluctance to provide information, are pure fiction. The letter also accuses Granada of persuading Mr Reed to co-operate by giving him the impression that Mr McCarthy

**Despite its  
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was taking part, despite the fact that both had made their opposition clear. The Friends of John McCarthy, including his girlfriend Jill Morrell, worked closely with Granada when the project was first mooted, while Mr McCarthy was still a prisoner in Beirut. But as the need for a film drawing attention to his continued captivity became redundant with his release, his allies withdrew their support from Granada, saying that nothing should be done until Mr McCarthy and the other freed hostages felt able to tell their own stories. It was a view shared by a number of directors and producers who had been approached by Granada, and who withdrew their services once the feelings of Messrs McCarthy, Keenan and Waite were made clear to them.

Granada acknowledged the protests but pressed on anyway, saying that the former hostages will feel differently once they see the film. The question, however, is not whether the hostages have been

fairly dealt with, but whether they should have been dealt with at all. Significantly, there have been no objections to Frank McGuinness's stage play, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, which by no coincidence deals with an Irishman, an Englishman and an American incarcerated together in a Beirut cellar. Indeed, a letter from John McCarthy adorns the stage door noticeboard at the Vaudeville Theatre, in London's West End, in which he says he hopes to see the play before it comes off.

The difference is that Mr McGuinness has used fictional characters to illustrate the essential truth of the hostage tragedy, while by using real names and characters, the Granada film could leave viewers thinking that everything it says is airtight fact.

Mark Lucas, the literary agent for both Mr McCarthy and Mr Waite, says: "Without information that only John and the others could give, Granada cannot claim that this film has any documentary value."

Mr Lucas dismisses a whispering campaign suggesting that Mr McCarthy's real concern is that *Hostages* might affect the income from his forthcoming book. "Money is not the issue," he says. "John had five years' back pay waiting for him when he came home, and we have done very substantial publishing deals for him, Jill and Terry Waite."

"Nor has this got anything to do with protecting any future film based on the book, because they haven't even decided if they want to allow that yet. In any case, they won't do anything which would exploit the deep compassion that so many people have for them."

Ian McBride, the editor of drama documentaries at Granada, is well aware that *Hostages* could incur the wrath not only of the former captives, but also of the British public. But he says: "It's a very good story, and we were told it by journalists, diplomats and politicians who were involved. We also spoke at length to Tom Sutherland and Frank Reed. We have total confidence in the veracity of our research. We would have been happier if John and the others had felt more at ease with us, but that does not invalidate our film."

"I have never been involved in a project that was the subject of so much analysis and care. In fact we shelved the whole project for a time after John McCarthy's release, because he warned us that the slightest hint of a programme like this could possibly prejudice the chances for Terry Waite and the others who were still being held."

As for the suggestion that using fictionalised characters would have silenced his critics, Mr McBride says: "A lot of newspaper journalists wrote speculative pieces about the hostages, and they used the real names. Had we changed the names, we would have been accused of fudging the issue."



How near the truth? Brian Keenan (as played by Ciaran Hinds) is dragged to a hiding place by his captors in Granada's *Hostages*

When Granada mounted such re-enactments as the fall of the Czech leader Alexander Dubcek and the Reagan/Gorbachev summit in Reykjavik, actors gave voice to whatever scraps of dialogue researchers could be sure had actually been spoken. But such austere readings of history could not survive the demands of popular television. Viewers more familiar with *The Professionals* than the Prague Spring wanted more tension and fast-moving storytelling in their peak-time programmes, and Granada had to provide it if they wanted to reach a mass audience.

All this added to the cost, and Granada found the extra cash in a fruitful relationship with the American TV company Home Box Office (HBO), which has invested in several of Granada's more recent drama documentaries, including the much-awarded *Why Lockerbie?*, and now *Hostages*. In return, HBO gets American screening rights to programmes that find a ready audience in the United States, and it is this special relationship that has prompted some critics

to ask whether the demands of a commercially-minded American partner have forced Granada away from the ethical purity of earlier films and deeper into the less-examined mire of the action movie.

Colin Callender, a senior executive at HBO, British-born, British-trained and a fervent admirer of the Granada team's approach, has always rebutted all suggestions of compromise. "We have never told Granada what they should make, or how they should make it. They come to us with a list of things they are going to do, we invest in the ones we think are right for us."

Granada can list *The Last Days of Mrs Thatcher* and the sequence of films that led to the freeing of the Birmingham Six as examples of drama documentaries it has made without HBO, but it is unquestionable that high gloss projects such as *Hostages* are a far cry from the post-fact meticulousness of old, and Granada knows it.

At the press screening, the executive producer, Ray Fitzwalter, noted

that *Hostages* departed from the Granada tradition by being "more drama-led than usual", and that much of the dialogue was not that of the captives themselves, but of the writer, Bernard McLaverty. What is more, the opening credits carry the disclaimer that no endorsement was sought or received from any of the former hostages.

Mr Lucas points out that Granada has, in fact, been seeking out Mr McCarthy and Mr Waite since January, and Mr McBride says that what the disclaimer really

means is that while the hostages were invited to provide information, they were not asked to approve the film's production.

It is said to chronicle such a nipping feud between Granada and people more usually among its most loyal defenders. It is near tragic to see such a well-intentioned project, devoted to some of the most courageous men and women in Britain, descend into suspicion and controversy even before it has been shown.

● *Hostages*, ITV, 8pm tomorrow

## The small pleasures of bankruptcy

**MID LIFE: Neil Lyndon finds a kind  
of comfort in financial ruin**

Mr K at the Official Receiver's office was completing my statement and filling in the reasons for my bankruptcy.

Number One was "the recession" (panic economies hit Fleet Street early and my monthly income divided by 83 per cent between August 1990 and June 1991). In August 1990, the balance of my assets over my debts was about £100,000, mainly in the value of the house. Today, my position is almost exactly reversed.

Number Two was "interest rates" (see my earlier complaints about the usurious 23.8 per cent APR plus charges which Lloyds Bank was charging on my accounts, not letting me know that I could have been paying 16.75 per cent on a business rate).

Mr K said: "I'm going to be writing down these reasons a lot. We're overwhelmed in this office already, but it doesn't seem to make any difference to policy, does it?"

We agreed to meet again next month, when my creditors assemble. I left her surrounded with the documentary debris of my financial ruin and drove away, listening to the news on the (borrowed) car radio. For the first time in three years, I heard about the shocks and horrors on the exchanges, the imminent leap in mortgage prices with calm indifference. No surges of gall through my guts; no leaden despair in my heart; no gripping the wheel and shouting aloud "My God, I'm ruined!" I am already

ruined. They can't get me now.

The removal of the pound from the ERM may save it off but, if you are heading in the direction of the Official Receiver's Office, you may like to know that you can expect to meet some friendly people there (probably better not to wear some flowers in your hair). The officials are scrupulous, tidy-minded and efficient. They do what they say they are going to do, and if you do what they tell you to do, they will treat you with courtesy and fairness. If you don't do what they say, they'll throw you in jail — but that much is clearly understood.

Your companions in the waiting (or receiving) rooms may give you heart. They may be just like you and they will make you feel at home. New boys and girls slope in with polished shoes, nervously gripping their satchels full of papers and asking to be directed to the lavatories. Old hands relax in their chairs, waiting to be called in to see the senior mistress and swapping stories.

In the last six weeks, I have heard about 20 of these stories. They are all much the same, delivered by people who are all roughly the



same age as each other and me. They all ring true.

The bankrupts I have met are all small businessmen and women and self-employed workers. They borrowed money in the late Eighties and the first years of the

1990s. Encouraged, exhorted by the banks, to expand their businesses and secured the borrowings against their houses which, we all believed, were soundly valued. When the recession hit, they borrowed more money to keep their businesses and their families going. Declining incomes, rising interest rates and the slump in the value of their only asset locked them into an Iron Maiden of financial torture. Three, at least, of them have used the same words to me, saying "I felt like a rat in a cage, running backwards and forwards, trying to find a way out."

Many of them have said: "I worked hard for 20-25 years to build myself up. I wasn't greedy. I didn't do anything criminal. I took advice from bankers and accountants and I followed it. Now I've got nothing."

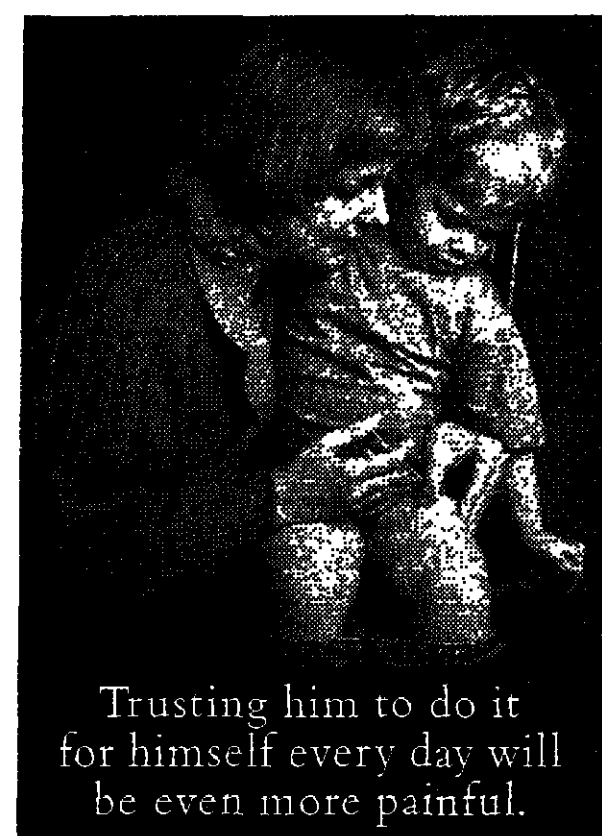
One of them said: "When this happens, you realise that there are

experiences in middle-age from which you may never recover. They can break you. I have always thought of myself as a strong person but I don't know if I can recover from this. I may only have another ten or 15 years of working life in which to put myself straight."

And another: "What seems to me most cruel, what I can't forgive, is that the same government which boasted about the 'property-owning democracy' and encouraged people to borrow money to buy houses should have put the bite on those very people and caused those people to lose their houses, as I have, and everything else with it."

Like old lags in the prison canteen, blaming the police, their briefs and the judges for their convictions, never admitting that they might themselves have some responsibility for their plight, we shift the blame around in our chats. There is, however, some genuine comfort to be gained from the recognition that hundreds of thousands are in the same mess as yourself; and that, while many of them may have been politicos, just as many will have been ordinary middle-class Joe who did their best and got trounced and trashed by impersonal, external circumstances beyond their control or understanding.

Mr K is willing to admit these truths in the records she compiles; and future historians will find them, in abundance, when they examine the records of the Official Receiver for the black years of the early 1990s.



Trusting him to do it  
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be even more painful.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

"Delete which is applicable" Reg. Charity No. 215199

**BRITISH DIABETIC ASSOCIATION**



**COLOUHOON AND MACRYDIE:** Lindsay Posner directs John Byrne's breakneck comedy about the two artists, painting the town in post-war Soho. Opens tonight. Royal Court, Sloane Square, London SW1 0JH (071-730 1745), 8pm, then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

**ICAPULETI E I MONTECCHI:** Pier Luigi Pizzi's 1984 production of Verdi's comic opera is revived with a promising cast. Anne Sofie von Otter sings Pappagena, the young British soprano Amanda Rooftop sings Julietta. The conductor, following up the success with *I Puritani* last season, is Daniele Gatti. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 0RZ (071-340 1066), tonight, Fri, 7:30pm.

**THE FORCE OF DESTINY:** Well balanced English National Opera production of Verdi's compelling opera under the baton of the esteemed Mark Elder. Josephine Barston takes command of the most demanding of all vocal dramatic soprano roles, Leonora. Edmund Barham as her husband, Don Alvaro, and John Connell, Sumner, make a fine supporting cast. Richard Hudson's 19th-century costumes are set against a brightly coloured abstract set.

**THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III:** Nigel Hawthorne is very fine as the mad king in Alan Bennett's National (Lyric) production. South Sea, SE1 0LH (071-528 2522), tonight, tomorrow, 7:30pm, mat today, 2:15pm, 170mins.

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## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 0JH (071-528 8800), 7:30pm.

**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:** Simon Rattle conducts the orchestra in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3*. With Jari Van Nes, the leader of the CBSO Chorus and school children from Shrewsbury and Alton.

Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham B2 12 3JH, 7:30pm.

**JOEY CALDERAZZO:** Attracting more than 100,000 people to the Royal Albert Hall, Calderazzo's *Rock Hudson's Home Movies*, or the pure mountain air of Robert Redford's *A River Runs Through It*, or perhaps they were chasing the cream of Canada, Europe, Asia and Iran. In all, 335 films tumbled over each other at the downtown cinemas during Toronto's 17th celluloid orgy, the Festival of Festivals — the largest such event in North America.

With the world premiere of Woody Allen's remarkable *Husbands and Wives*, the vampires found a feast. At this juncture in his private life, any new Allen film would be raked over by armchair Freudians. *Husbands*, however, positively encourages us to see art reflecting life.

"Do you think that we'd ever break up?" Mia Farrow asks Allen early on, faced with the marriage collapse of their best friends Judy Davis and Sydney Pollack. By the end, every member of this cosy Manhattan group has changed partners, sometimes twice; and Allen, a teacher, has toyed with the affections of a 20-year-old student (Juliette Lewis, who gives the film's only unsatisfactory performance). "Women get to a certain age," Davis says, "and then men want a newer model." Dialogue of that kind naturally got the pens scribbling furiously at the press show.

But the film's strength and fascination goes far beyond parallels with tabloid headlines. The camera lurches with a rare hand-held frenzy; in case projectionists think their print is at fault, Allen has gone to the trouble of sticking an explanatory note on the film cans. The effect at times is overdone, but it certainly hurls us into the characters' madness. Straddling the tightrope between comedy and drama, jangling with exposed nerves, *Husbands and Wives* is Allen's best film in years. Britain's vampires must wait until next month.

Nothing jangles in *A River Runs Through It*, unless it is your loose change as you wait for something to happen. Redford's source is an autobiographical recollection by Norman Maclean of his Montana childhood, where a reverence for fly fishing seemed the only bond between himself, his tearaway younger brother and a tiny Presbyterian father. In the words of Redford's narrator, "It was a world with dew on it."

Eventually the dew burns off, and the film develops some more dramatic muscle: the family grows apart, and the younger brother (given a charismatic performance from Brad Pitt) self-destructs. But there is still precious little to jolt the film out of its beautiful, tasteful life.

If America dominated the gala screenings, the rest of the world put up a vigorous fight. Britain included. Neil Jordan's *The Crying Game* brought surprise and pleasure, especially to anyone who winced at the director's last films. With its bemused hero and bewitching black heroine, his new

among the drawings is a hitherto unknown study for his revolutionary sculpture *Rock Drill* (1913). There are fine examples of his Epping Forest watercolours of the Thames, and the Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, London NW8 0JH (071-524 1126), Wed-Sat, 11am-6pm, until Oct 17.

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LIFE &amp; TIMES TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22 1992

ARTS 3

# Skip lunch and stop messing about

Keith Waterhouse, novelist, playwright and columnist, talks to Peter Barnard about *Billy Liar*, now on a national tour

Is there life after lunch? This is one of the questions I wish to put to Keith Waterhouse. There is another question, about lunch itself, but I am thinking of withholding it. After all, I have been summoned to see Waterhouse at the Groucho Club in Soho at 4pm which is not, by any stretch of the imagination, lunchtime. So which lunch engagement has taken precedence over that offered by *The Times*? What feast is there at which a *Times* accountant might balk?

"A sandwich in the stalls." A sandwich? In the stalls? The man who lists lunch as his sole recreation in *Who's Who*, the man who has written a book on lunch, the theory and practice thereof, eats sandwiches in the stalls? Germaine.

He does, however. It transpires that they are rehearsing at the Strand Theatre the stage version of his 1988 book, *Our Song*, which is to star Peter O'Toole. O'Toole will not rehearse in draughty halls, only in real theatres, draughty or otherwise. So there they all were, at the Strand, eating sandwiches between the lines.

Now we are all here, at the Groucho, drinking champagne (Waterhouse) and white wine (me). Ostensible purpose, nominal peg: the opening in Oxford tonight of a National Theatre touring version of *Billy Liar*, the book — that made Waterhouse's name in 1959. So I had better ask him something about that, for appearances sake.

The photographer arrives, dressed overall in Canon. We think we might as well get the photographs over with. Seated at the next table is Jeffrey Bernard looking as

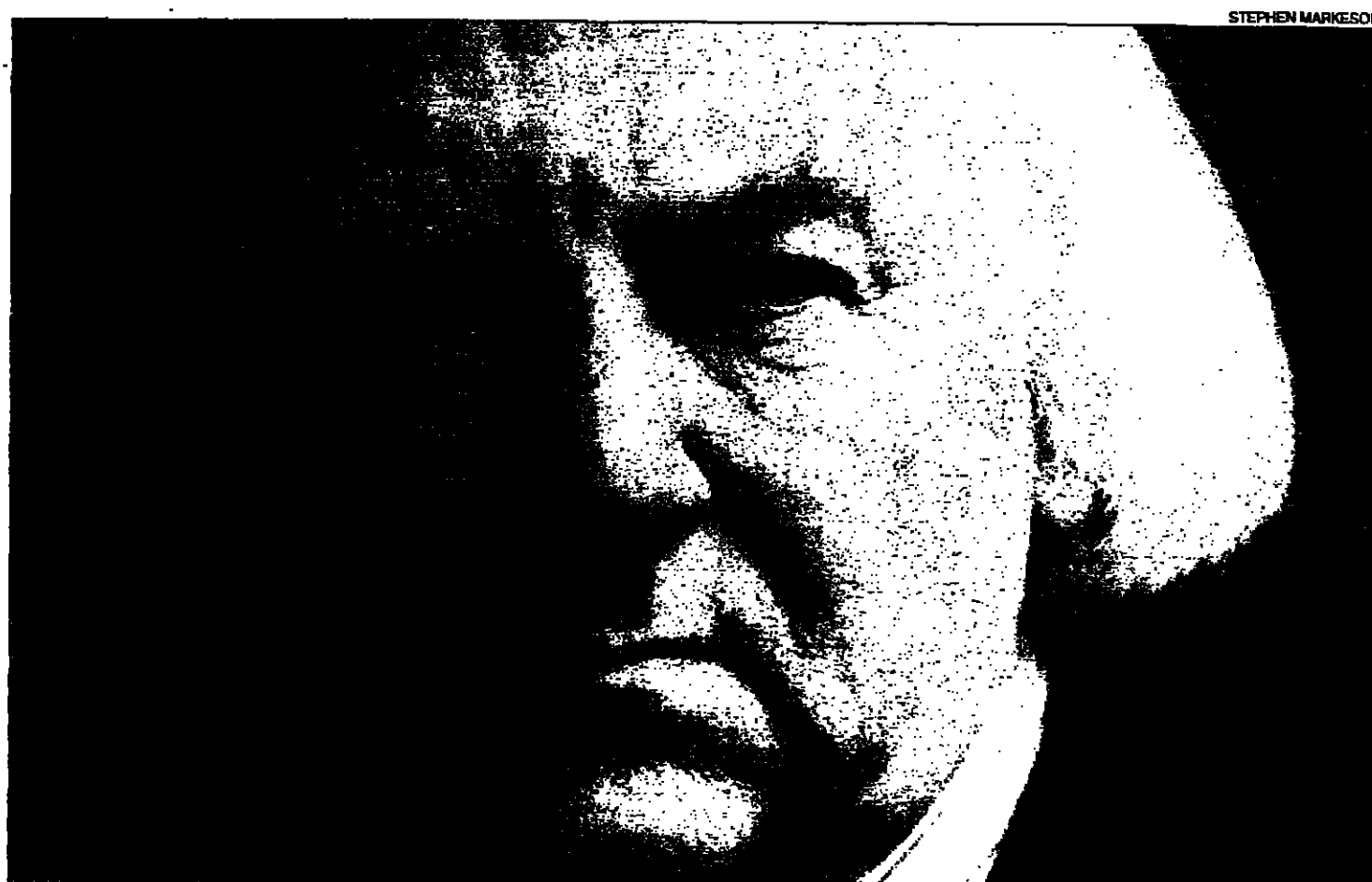
um, well as can be expected. Waterhouse wrote *Jeffrey Bernard Is Unwell*, which also starred Peter O'Toole, so a photograph with Bernard is suggested. Waterhouse kindly approaches Bernard, who kindly agrees. They disappear with the photographer.

Bernard returns to his table companion, who is Sue Townsend of *Adrian Mole* and, now, *The Queen and I*. The place is starting to resemble Plug City. Waterhouse has been pinned in a distant corner by the photographer, who has found some light. Bernard says to me: "First thing I do every Saturday, read your column. *The Times* is the only paper I have delivered."

All right, he may not have said all of that, or exactly that. But happily Waterhouse, almost dapper in his blazer and light flannels, heaves once more into view just as Bernard has unwittingly reminded me of that half-formed question.

"Do you think there is something of the Billy Liar in all of us?" Waterhouse thinks there probably is. "There is a tendency to fantasise, not so much to lie in any deliberate, calculated way, but to daydream. People say, 'I want to be a famous writer, but I can't write'. So they fantasise and it spills over, it becomes 'I've got a book of short stories coming out'."

When *Billy Liar* came out, the title, if not the theme, had already been through several incarnations. This ground-breaking novel of English adolescence began as 10,000 words with the "extremely pretentious" title *The Young Man's Magnificent* which "thank God, I left in a cab" says Waterhouse, evidently relieved not to have it returned. "So



Waterhouse, 62 years old, lists lunch as his sole recreation in *Who's Who* and has written a book on the theory and practice of lunch

then, having promised I was going to do this novel I had to stop messing about and really write."

The result was to be called *Saturday Night at the Ritz* but Waterhouse read that "somebody called Sillitoe" was bringing out a book called *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*. Thus was born *Billy Liar*, "a far better title."

Waterhouse, who is now aged 62, has been writing away ever since. He is, as they say, prolific. He works for four hours every morning and then goes to lunch, which is followed by "messing about time". He says that as a self-employed writer, he finds that after four hours "self-pity sets in and the work starts going downhill fast". This I can vouch for.

Yet he has produced umpteen books, plays and television series, almost all of this output marked by the easy style that only hard labour can produce and by the wit that informs so much genuine insight.

His biggest single audience is certainly for his journalism, which appears twice a week in the *Daily Mail*. He was with the *Mirror* for 16 years until 1986, when his defection became the subject of intense speculation in Medialand. The truth is straightforward enough. "It was Captain Bob [Maxwell], I felt his presence looming. It was quite clear that he was going to interfere with the column so I

decided to look around, give auditions."

"I had lunch with Maxwell when he took over the *Mirror* and he brought with him some excessively boring material about trade union vote fixing which I politely suggested he send to Woodrow Wyatt. It wasn't my kind of turn. I said look, what you bought when you bought the paper included me. It's as if you're the owner of the *Palladium* and you've got this act, this juggling act, and you don't want the juggling act suddenly to be a tenor or a unicyclist. If the *Palladium* doesn't like your act you don't change your act, you go to the Coliseum."

Maxwell, famed for his malapropisms ("Jerusalem wasn't built in

a day") would boom this theatrical analogy back at Waterhouse whenever they met subsequently, but always got the theatres wrong.

So Waterhouse went to lunch with Sir David English ("a clever bugger") then editor of the *Mail*. The juggler had found his Coliseum, and graces it still. Waterhouse still has plenty to say, in his column and through his plays and even, no doubt, to the likes of me. We really must have lunch.

*Billy Liar* is at the Oxford Playhouse from tonight until Saturday, and thereafter at Chichester, Tunbridge Wells, Dublin Festival, Canterbury, Brighton, Manchester, Coventry, Burton upon Trent, Cardiff, Glasgow, Belfast, Festival, Coleraine, Taunton and Whitley Bay.

## OPERA REVIEW: CARDIFF

### Called new, but sadly out of date

Opera audiences have the reputation of being by far the most conservative of all theatre-goers, but even their patience will be tested by David Alden's new production of Strauss's *Elektra* for Welsh National Opera, now at the New Theatre, Cardiff. This desperately old-fashioned staging is the sort of thing to give conservatism a bad name.

The show is advertised as being staged by the creators of the *Pet Shop Boys* international tour, which seems designed to appeal neither to admirers of the singers in question nor to opera-goers, and the only possible connection is when something rather nasty happens with a hosepipe (off stage, mercifully). Otherwise the décor by Paul Bond (a mysterious new name for David Fielding) and Charles Edwards is a comprehensive catalogue of every design tic worn by the past ten years or more.

Item: the steeply raked stage with a San Andreas fault running through it; the tiled, blood-spattered public lavatory wall; the single naked light bulb (the publicity promised no nudity); the kitchen chairs, which get thrown about the stage; Chrysothemis a dumb blonde in a Harlow wig (give us a break); ladies stripping down to their slips

and getting covered in blood; best of all the moment when Aegisthus calls for lights, and Elektra hauls on a suburban standard lamp and waves it about at him, though this could of course have been a critical comment on the music at that point.

Similarly with Alden's direction: as the great Ernest Bevin put it, clutch upon clutch upon clutch. The stern, grey-suited wardress (originally a train-bearer) who knocks Klytemnestra about a bit and then gives her a health-restoring injection: the zombie extras rolling round the stage in slow motion (this unfortunately proves catching); the cocktail on a tray; the blood-smearing; the stagger-and-clutch-the-air style of acting.

Oh dear me, it all seemed so exciting ten years ago, but it really won't do any more. One can only echo Wagner's plea: "Kinder, schaffet neues."

How sad that so much energy should have been expended on all this passé expressionist junk at the expense of what should be the primary consideration — text. For the most part the standard of German enunciation, especially from the one German-speaker in the cast (Eva Maria Bundschuh as Chrysothemis), was simply unacceptable. Entire long passages emerged as pure gobbledygook.



Felicity Palmer (left) and Janet Hardy in *Elektra*

only Felicity Palmer (Klytemnestra) and Phillip Joll (Orestes) sounded as if they understood what they were singing and managed to convey the meaning to the audience. But I suppose in a production that is about someone's vague impression of *Elektra*, communication is of marginal importance, if not downright dangerous.

Apart from Palmer's powerfully and intelligently delivered Klytemnestra, the singing was only serviceable. Bundschuh has one or two useful notes at the top, precious little elsewhere and barely a consonant to her name. Her ungainly gasps for breath — sometimes occurring in the middle of a sentence — were distressing. Joll's unsteadiness of delivery was of little help to

Orestes's long legato lines. In the title role, the American soprano Janet Hardy fielded unsparingly metallic tone with a good cutting edge to it; there was little variety of tone-colour or dynamic. One admired her energy and commitment, but little else.

In advance, much interest centred on Carlo Rizi's first encounter with the score. In the event, his was a conventionally noisy reading, slack in rhythm, unimaginative in the shaping of the musical phrases. There was some coarse playing, not free of accidents. When less than superlatively conducted, *Elektra* can be rather wearing, and so it proved on this occasion.

RODNEY MILNES

## NEW MUSIC: LONDON

### Fresh from Britain

After the absurdity of its first concert-clash with Holliger and Schiff's jamboree next door, the Nash Ensemble's Twentieth Century Music Series, sponsored by IBM, proceeded on in the Purcell Room on Thursday without rivalry, save the small matter of the celebrations for the beginning of the London Philharmonic's South Bank residency. The programme included a world premiere, Jonathan Harvey's *Lotus*, for flute (doubling bass flute and piccolo), violin, viola and cello, whose premise was that individual objects are more enlightening than abstractions.

The flavour of this Buddhism-inspired piece is of the orient. Delicate, subtle colours — extremely difficult, I imagine, to execute with such poise as that displayed here — predominate. But though Harvey's exquisite objects seem isolated in their own spaces, the work still has a momentum that takes us through its silences.

There is, however, no goal, only lovely whispers on the winds. Harvey has as fine a sensitivity for timbres as any composer working today, not discounting Boulez, whose influence is felt strongly here. It is good to hear him continuing to pursue this path.

The broad church of contemporary British music can accommodate just as easily this fragile music as the more muscular kind composed by Colin Matthews. His Three-Part Chaconne (three sections rather than three lines) for string trio and piano left hand, a Nash/IBM commission from 1990, is a powerful, clear study in counterpoints of different colours and musics, culminating in a brilliant dash derived from the piano's opening improvisatory meanderings.

Both pieces were contained in a sandwich whose outer layers consisted of works composed by Britten at each end of his career — the facile *Phantasy*, Op 2 (1932), for oboe and string trio, and the cantata *Phaedra* (1975), for mezzo-soprano, strings and percussion. Sally Burgess sang the later work with an intensity worthy of the tragedy; Lionel Friend conducted purposefully. At the concert's heart, meanwhile, was a well-turned reading by Marcia Crayford and Christopher van Kampen of Ravel's Sonata for violin and cello.

The following evening, the Composers' Ensemble gave more new British music: two songs, "Tenebrae" and "Night", by Sir Harrison Birtwistle, no less, which complete a set of three to texts by Paul Celan. (The first, "White and Light", was composed in 1989.)

Alas, no texts, and Mary

Wiegold's diction was as unclear as her voice seemed fragile. But these songs, which the composer conducted himself, combined directness with a distilled elegance, sparse, dark processions both.

Equally dark, but more overtly and ritually dramatic, was *Lotus* (1968), for basset clarinet (Alan Hacker) and piano (Catherine Edwards), while the elegiac *An Interrupted Endless Melody*, for oboe (Melinda Maxwell) and piano (Edwards again), composed in 1991 in memory of Janet Craxton on the tenth anniversary of her death, consisted simply of a lovely melody over a gently sprung accompaniment.

This well designed and executed concert also offered Berio's three Joyce settings, Chamber Music (1953), Morton Feldman's wondrously static, if relatively brief, *Three Clarinets*, Cello and Piano (1971), and the touching little *Canzona* for oboe and ensemble (1982) that Hans Werner Henze used as an interlude in his opera *The English Cat*. John Woolrich shared the conducting with Birtwistle.

My apologies to both singers for praising Rosa Manion instead of Eileen Hulse for the beautiful performance of Mark Anthony Turnage's new work, *Her Anxiety*, in the first concert of the Nash Ensemble's series last Tuesday.

STEPHEN PETTIT



Jonathan Harvey: fine sensitivity for timbres

## ARTS BRIEF

### Pride or profit?

FILM director Spike Lee has proposed that blacks throughout America should miss work or school to attend the nationwide opening of his film *Malcolm X* on November 20. His non-admirers point out that since he is expecting these supporters to be paying customers, ideological and commercial motives may be somewhat mixed. As we go to press, Lee and his producers have apparently still not resolved their differences as to whether the final, released version will retain an opening title-sequence which shows the burning of the American flag.

### Levine in London

JAMES LEVINE, conductor of the New York Metropolitan Opera, and arguably the most powerful individual in American musical life, is returning to the London concert platform for the first time in 17 years. He conducts the Vienna Philharmonic at the Festival Hall on December 2, the first of three Festival Hall concerts by the Vienna PO this season. Sir George Solti conducts the orchestra on February 8, and Riccardo Muti on May 30.

### Volunteers

ENGLISH National Opera's new marketing campaign ("Everyone Needs Opera") — hence ENO! — is about to spread from tube station posters into the less conventional arena of cinema advertisements. So determined is the company to beat the recession which has afflicted so many West End box-offices that the ENO orchestra, conductor (Mark Elder) and soloists (Jane Eaglen, Anne-Marie Owens, Richard Van Allan) have agreed not to ask a fee for recording the soundtrack to the ads. The Act 1 trio from Mozart's *Così fan tutte* is the selected piece of enticement.

### Last chance...

SAM MENDES'S production of *Richard III* has been acclaimed for Simon Russell Beale's astounding performance in the title-role: loathsome to look at, gleefully sadistic and psychologically acute. Its run at The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 295623) ends on Saturday, then the play sets off on a 12-week national tour, before visiting Rotterdam and Tokyo. In the new year it arrives at the Donmar Warehouse in London, where Mendes is artistic director, and the production will open next year's Stratford season at the larger Swan theatre.

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# Reading between the front lines

**Misha Glenny**  
believes print is best  
able to explain the  
reasons behind the  
Yugoslav conflict

Early one May morning, the crashing of grenades finally gave way to the dawn chorus around the Hotel Ilidza on the outskirts of Sarajevo — even the guns, it seemed on this occasion, had no energy left to fire. Tired and unwashed, I sat drinking coffee with a young Catalan journalist, Jordi Puyol. It was the first time I had met him. Unlike me, he was full of enthusiasm as he had only recently arrived on what was his first foreign assignment. He was one of the handful of journalists who had decided against joining the mass evacuation from Ilidza, which had been voted on a few hours before. The rest were about to leave for the relative safety of Split on the Dalmatian coast.

A few hours later when I and 30 others were negotiating the treacherous mountain route across western Herzegovina, Puyol was walking through a quiet district of Sarajevo when he was suddenly struck to the ground by the force of shrapnel ripping through his chest. "I've been hit," he said and, unprotected by a flak jacket, he began the last two hours of his life.

The danger which journalists have faced during the wars in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina has almost become a cliché. While I do not condone the killing of 30 colleagues (it would reveal a disturbing suicidal tendency if I did), I believe that responsibility for our safety rests with us. Certainly, the organisations we work for can provide us with some protection once we decide to enter a war zone. But that decision to enter or not must be ours alone.

Yet many of those who have made the decision and paid the price were not in a position to appreciate the dangers because of inexperience. Last October, two Japanese journalists were badly injured in what at the time was the wild frontier town of Karlovac. They had just stepped off the plane from Tokyo for their first visit to Europe, and would probably have fared better on Mars.

Knowledge of Yugoslav history and the destructive fanaticism of Serbs and Croats at war has not



Casualty of war: Martin Bell, the BBC television correspondent, goes to ground after being hit by shrapnel in Sarajevo last month

proved a reliable guarantee against being hit. But those of us who knew the country before or those who were experienced war correspondents were at least more realistic about what was in store and were able to take extra precautions. Among the foreign journalists killed, the overwhelming majority were on their first assignment in Yugoslavia.

It was in May 1991, before the war in Croatia had begun in earnest, that my fears about the coming war were confirmed. After a particular unpleasant incident in the eastern Croatian village of Borovo Selo, near Vukovar, Serb irregulars returned the bodies of three Croat policemen to the authorities in nearby Vinkovci. One had had his back flayed; the second had suffered a severed arm; the face of the third had been mutilated beyond recognition. I and most others working in Yugoslavia before the outbreak of the war were

braced for the brutality. This is not to suggest that when confronted with disembowelled peasants or the shrapnel-ridden bodies of young children I was not nauseated. However, I was not surprised. Some print journalists deserve special praise for their ability to communicate the surreal insanity of the war. The best known are probably Maggie O'Kane and Ed Vulliamy from *The Guardian*, whose courage and determination humble the rest of us.

Regrettably, the finest reporting from the Yugoslav war remains hidden from the general public, as it is to be found on the news agencies. Two journalists in particular, Andrej Gustinic from Reuters and Tony Smith from Associated Press, have managed to spring the tight confines of agency style. Their writing skills, which match those of Ms O'Kane and Mr

Vulliamy, are complemented by a deep understanding of Yugoslav traditions and historical patterns which add the crucial dimension missing from most material published in the British press.

It is unfortunate that these days such print journalism is little more than a luxury, because television sets the agenda. In Yugoslavia, the horrors transmitted by television clearly identified the Serbs as the main perpetrators of crimes. But while television exposed these crimes, it obscured their origin and the medium thus conflated causes and symptoms of the struggle.

Anti-Serb sentiment in Western Europe and the United States has allowed western policy to develop as an emotive response to the level of violence perpetrated by Serbs and not as a political response to the underlying causes of war in Yugoslavia. An emotive response can only exacerbate a political problem. Although television news plays a

crucial role in bringing stories to public attention, in the case of Yugoslavia it is a medium that cannot explain the reasons behind the conflict.

Over the next few months, several journalists including myself, will be leaving the front line. Mostly, we can no longer cope with a society we once loved but has now imploded with such violence. This exodus may have little immediate impact on the coverage of the region, but it is worth noting none the less — this is a conflict which more than needs to be placed in its historical context. If the media fail to do this, they will help fan the flames of Balkan violence.

● The author is the central Europe correspondent of the BBC World Service. His book, *The Fall of Yugoslavia: The Third Balkan War*, has just been published by Penguin at £5.99.

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## Policy needs a package

How much should the presentation of policy shape the policy itself? Or, as I heard too many disgruntled senior civil servants complain, how much should the tail wag the dog?

After nearly 25 years spent trying to put the best possible gloss on government policy, I find that the celebrated fictional lawyer, Perry Mason, had the right answer: the question is incompetent, irrelevant and immaterial.

Policy derived solely in response to publicity is likely to be seen for what it is. Presentation dressed up as policy — or as a substitute for it — can be embarrassing. Presentation running ahead of policy can be useful, if untidy, as I found during the 1985 sterling crisis when my clumsy briefing provided the Treasury with a policy. Policy in a presentational vacuum often comes a cropper.

There is more than a suspicion, for example, that the Cheshire regiment is being sent to be shot at in Bosnia because of the power of television pictures. After Northern Ireland — not to mention the destruction of the exchange rate mechanism — it is felt that we need a better reason for their deployment than for the European Community to be seen to be doing something.

Or take the excruciatingly cynical photo call by David Mellor, leaning on the garden gate with his in-laws and poor wife and sons after his exposure as an intimate of the awful Miss de Sancha. This was presentation substituting for the only acceptable policy — resignation.

But policy formulated without regard for its presentation can, come unstuck, too. Consider the poll tax. Leaving aside its alleged "unfairness" in requiring the dustman to pay the same as the duke, little attempt was made in England and Wales to show, by specimen revaluations of property, that it could have been the lesser of two evils.

Nor will John Major expect to

find praise for last week in the presentational text books. Like some other sterling crises I have known, it was not a pretty sight. Events have a habit of leaving presentation gasping and revealing a poverty of policy.

The week began ominously with the prime minister cancelling his visit to Expo '92 in Seville because of the weight of work without consulting his press secretary, Gus O'Donnell. I know the feeling. Do not kill the messenger.

Worse was to follow as successive rises in interest rates were announced, and then dropped back to where they started as we crashed out of the ERM.

Since then, the government's attempts to justify its obsession with the mark (by blaming the Germans), its crablike retreat from the ERM without so much as a mea culpa or the ritual sacrifice of the chancellor, and blundering search for a way forward, have been transparent.

The disappearance from view of a prime minister who has been as accessible to the media as his predecessor was inaccessible served only to confirm the seismic value of the earthquake which hit Whitehall. The divorce of policy and presentation — the essential partnership — was manifestly complete as, one after another, ministers contradicted themselves. I have never been more thankful to be an ex-press secretary.

Mr Major's urgent task is now to restore confidence in himself and his government. He needs economic policies — and fast — which contain inflation, get the economy moving and salvage something European — though not Maastricht — from the debris of a treaty long since wrecked by the Danes.

He also needs to present his policies and himself in a commanding way. He needs to get his act together. Every dog needs a tail.

● The author was press secretary to Margaret Thatcher

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Inner vision: "virtual reality" machines are the hit of the amusement arcades, such as this one at London's Trocadero. But soon they could be on every child's Christmas list

## Out of sight - and out of mind?

The "tyrant child" may not be new to parents, but came as a rude surprise to the toy industry. Defined at a recent gathering of the industry as being difficult to please and fast to forsake toys for adult pastimes, the little terror is also proving resistant to age-old selling techniques.

At the Toys 2000 conference in Macclesfield, Cheshire, last Friday, toy manufacturers hoped to find a clue to the mood of the millennium and the marketing strategies that will make sure that our children will be playing with their parents.

Not only were they worried by the ravages of the recession, but by the way childhood has been compressed by a combination of precocity and technology.

"Children have become more like adults partly because adults have become more like children," said Robin Wight, the chairman of WCRS, the advertising agency responsible for Sega's mega-drive upwards in the video games market over the past year. "Re-positioning Sega as an adult game was largely responsible for its overtaking Nintendo."

Children are so sophisticated (65 per cent of three to four-year-olds apparently recognise the difference between a television commercial and a programme, and know what the commercial is trying to do) that toy advertisements can no longer talk down to them or talk to parents over their heads.

Nor can advertisements any longer be positioned for maximum effect within children's programming. Mr Wight says, "since seven out of the top ten favourite children's pro-

grammes in Britain are "adult" programmes such as *Neighbours* and *EastEnders*."

Their favourite advertisements, he claims, are for Carling Black Label - his own company's work - Coca-Cola, Guinness, Anchor and Pedigree Chum.

With hindsight, the end of childhood - as the toy market knew it - can be dated to the development of the home computer and video games market. Since then, the manufacturers and retailers at the conference agree, the toy mar-

ket for seven to twelve-year-olds has been steadily declining.

Professor Brian Sutton-Smith, of the University of Pennsylvania, who will be speaking on "the future of toys" at a second conference to be staged by the British Toy and Hobby Association next month, feels that expensive electronic toys will lead to increasingly solitary play.

"I think that is going to be the great horror story of the future," he says. "Children will live in a fantasy world of their own, having more and more contact with 'virtual reality' toys and video games than with each other. Their play

will be centred on the computer screen and will probably be confined to the bedroom."

"At a recent meeting of American toy manufacturers it was envisaged that children will be buying 'virtual reality' headsets and gloves as the technology becomes cheaper."

The British conference confirmed the potential the industry sees in exploiting "virtual reality" to tame the tyrant child. Also coming our way, according to Professor Sutton-Smith, who feels that sport will be an increasing area of

games with words or music, and the toy can 'grow' with them over the years from 18 months to five."

Given the choice between an electronic toy and a traditional one, he claims, "there is no contest: the child will go for the electronic one every time."

Tim Willis, the chairman of the BTHA, disagrees. He produces traditional wooden jigsaw puzzles for Mothercare and other outlets, and has watched his business thrive despite the recession.

Mike Moody of Tyco, mak-

er of the Little Mermaid, one of the most popular girls' toy ranges in recent years, says: "Girls are more interested in traditional toys than boys, and don't go for every passing craze. They provide the continuity of the market."

Graham Benison, the chairman and managing director of Mantel UK, thinks there will be a market for the new generation of talking traditional toys, as his company's Teen Talk Barbie, with a "well-modulated, not monotonous" voice is already proving in America. British parents will not be immune: the doll is due here just before Christmas, priced at about £20.

Games with words or music, and the toy can 'grow' with them over the years from 18 months to five."

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## Handwriting is on the wall



Davina Lloyd

Graphologists say that it betrays every aspect of your personality. Not merely whether you are neatly organised or creatively ramshackle, but if you are neurotic or well-rounded, short-tempered or possess hidden mathematical talent. Some claim that from a sample of script they can distinguish between pop stars, prime ministers and murderers.

Corporate employers, too, are now asking for a sample of handwriting to accompany job applications. While you are desperately inventing some original diversion to put in the section called "Hobbies" - fell walking, Irish literature, underwater photography - they can analyse the inner you. Half-formed vowels - likely to knock off stationery; back-sloping scrawl - possible backslider; angular italic - efficient, but lacking interpersonal skills; forward-thrusting flourishes - destined for a place on the board.

I have always regarded this science with scepticism. I used to think that your handwriting reveals only who taught you to write. Now I believe that it reveals one thing - your age. If you can do it at all - decent joined-up writing - you must be over 30. Or perhaps under eight.

Appalled by my 11-year-old's handwriting, I sneaked a look at his classmate's exercise books last open day. His was not the worst. Children of his age don't seem to have had the lessons. Well, not the same lessons that we had. From nursery onwards, they gain the impression that it is more important to get something down on paper than whether anyone else can read it.

After years of finger-painting and freehand, the moving finger of educational change having writ, has moved back to rewrite the rules. Revisionist thinking introduced "handwriting" as a required target of attainment within the national curriculum. "Pupils should be taught the conventional ways of forming letter shapes, lower case and capitals, through purposeful, guided practice in order

to foster a comfortable and legible handwriting style."

The reason for my son's archaic scribbles may well be that his age group has spindled along just ahead of the national curriculum requirement. His sister, though four years younger, has a finer grasp of the pen and penmanship.

However, I am afraid that the rest of their generation, my children regard handwriting as some lost, anachronistic art, like whistling or darning socks. When he was first learning to form letters, my son was prone to writing "e" backwards. I pointed this out to him as constructively as I could, but he responded with unanswerable logic: if you know it's supposed to be an "e", why does it matter?

Maybe the nuns were right, they warned us that using anything but a Quink-filled fountain pen would ruin your writing. By the time they get round to real writing, our children will have had a glorious range of scribbled sticks to make their mark on the world. Brilliant non-toxic crayons designed to fit the chubby infant fist; pens that write in two or more hues; luminous magic markers. If you can create such beautiful effects with a sweep or squiggle, who cares if your "e" faces the wrong way? The Pentel is mightier than the word.

As dictaphones saw off shorthand as an essential skill for secretarial employment, I suspect that new technology will see out manual forms of calligraphy. For the antiquated species of scribes and scribes, the handwriting is on the wall.

**'Children will live in a fantasy world of their own, having more contact with video games than with each other'**

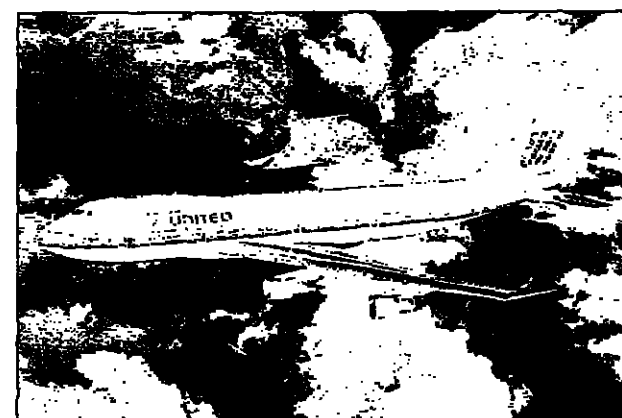
## Fly free USA with our three exclusive offers

### Stars and bars

LOS ANGELES is almost 400 miles south of San Francisco, and a very different kind of place. Los Angeles was called by Dorothy Parker "a collection of 63 suburbs in search of a city".

The old centre is now El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Park. It still has a Spanish flavour, with street vendors offering Mexican snacks, and Spanish musicians playing at the open-air cafes - and remember there is sun all the year round in LA.

Otherwise the city is a sprawling giant, covering 400 square miles. It is a great industrial centre, with the entertainment industry the



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TOKEN 8

### Has feminism failed?

Return the coupon below for tickets to the debate on women at the Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London (October 6, 7.30pm). The speakers will be Neil Lyndon, seconded by Kenneth Minogue, and Yvonne Roberts, seconded by Beatrix Campbell.

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### AND BRIEFLY

### Sleeping partner

MANY new mothers want to keep their babies close to them at night but worry about sharing their beds with a newborn. A compromise is the Bed Side Bed, designed to fit securely against an adult bed. The baby is on the same level as the adults, and can be reached out to easily for comfort during the night. A kit will transform it later into a traditional cot and, later still, the sides can be removed to make a mini bed. The bedside cot fits onto any adult bed from 12in to 30in high. £250 by mail order from The Bed Side Bed Company, 98 Woodlands Avenue, Wanstead, London E11 3QY (081-989 8683). Conversion kits £75; £295 if bought together.

### Life-saving

"FINDING your baby not breathing and being unable to do anything is an appalling thought for any parent," says Nicholas Young, director of the British Red Cross's UK operations. So, in an attempt to make parents feel less helpless, the Red Cross is offering free infant resuscitation courses throughout the

country. The courses cover artificial respiration, chest compressions and measures to prevent asphyxia as well as deal with it. Further details from your local Red Cross.

### Buy-tech

THE latest Science Museum catalogue is packed with intriguing presents. There's a rocket kit (£29.95), an illuminated pocket microscope (£13.50), a radio that runs on solar power (£24.95), balloon-powered cars which work on the basic principles of rocket propulsion (£5.50), and a mini hot air balloon (£8.95). Write to: Science Museum Brainwaves, Freepost SU361, Dept 5317, Hendon Road, Sunderland SR9 9AD.

### Pressure valves

FINALLY, it's official: working mothers are stressed, according to a survey carried out by Gallup for *She* magazine. Of the 1,000 working mothers surveyed, all in their twenties to forties, 65 per cent considered their lives stressful. How do they combat it? For 67 per cent a hot bath is the preferred method of relaxation, while 50 per cent turn to exercise. The third most-successful form of stress release is shopping. Sex is at the bottom of the list.

V.MCK.



A big hand from the stars

biggest of them all. Step forward, Hollywood! But Hollywood is now, sad to say, a rather sleazy area. However, you can go on tours of the former houses of great movie stars, and outside Mann's Chinese Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard you can see their hand and footprints. Sunset and Santa Monica Boulevards are where the entertainment moguls and lawyers cat, and Beverly Hills, to the west, is where they live.

Beyond that you come to the Pacific, and the sandy beaches of Santa Monica. The film and TV studios are now further out, around Burbank and Universal City. There are tours to Universal Studios and the NBC TV Studio. Disneyland is 50 miles away in Orange County.

UNITED AIRLINES



## MANAGEMENT

## BBC under a microscope

Michael Starks  
outlines a  
strategy to bring  
profound change  
in public  
broadcasting

Tomorrow, I shall be talking at a CBI management conference about the radical change at the BBC, termed Producer Choice, to which Michael Grade drew the nation's attention last month in his Edinburgh television lecture. I was glad he mentioned the subject, even though I disagreed with most of his observations, and I am pleased, too, that interest now reaches beyond broadcasting circles into the wider management world.

Producer Choice is a bold scheme to harness market forces to public service purposes. It should help to sharpen and strengthen the fundamental public service character of the BBC, but, at the same time, it challenges custom and habit.

It will remove public funding from under-utilised plant, from an excess of dispersed properties, and from low-priority overheads and put it into programmes instead. Those who regarded a chunk of the licence fee as theirs almost by right will be funded in future only if they are contributing to the BBC's public service purposes in the most effective and efficient way. Not only will they be accountable for this, but their quality and costs will be compared with outside alternatives.

For programme-makers, whether producers or their craft and technical colleagues, Producer Choice means concentrating resources on what they do best — putting good work on the screen and on the air. It will give them new



The face of change: Michael Starks says Producer Choice will sharpen and strengthen the character of the BBC

responsibilities, for managing the full costs of their activities.

But, for those who run a building the BBC no longer requires, provide a tier of management which could be abolished or staff a support service which will be used less in future now that its full costs are known. Producer Choice is uncomfortable. The BBC is reducing in size.

Producer Choice will begin throughout all the BBC's domestic services — television, radio, regional broadcasting and news and current affairs — next April, after an 18-month period of preparation. It remains a tight timetable. My job is both to stick to it and to make sure that the change happens as smoothly as possible.

The main outline of the new system is straightforward. In future, on a rolling annual basis, each of the BBC's television and radio channels will propose a programme strategy in line with the BBC's public service remit, specifying the

range and mix of programme types it intends to broadcast.

The remit will, of course, be publicly debated in the context of the BBC's charter renewal. Given the remit, programme strategy is the management tool that starts to turn editorial purpose into programmes.

Each channel will then receive its funding. If independent producers can make the same types of programmes to the same high quality at a lower price, this will limit the funding.

The channel controllers will then commission programmes, and accept offers, both from BBC programme-makers and from independent producers (who have a 25 per cent quota in television under government policy). Programmes will be funded at a full cost and the programme-makers will buy their operational and support services from inside and outside the BBC.

The corporation will, however, continue to make most of its own programmes. In nearly all areas, the in-house operations will retain a dominant role within a mixed economy. But they will do so on merit, not through protective rules.

We aim to make sure that the in-house operations are competitive before the competition starts in April:

- By shedding under-utilised capacity, following systematic studies in television, news and current affairs, and, most recently, radio;
- By making a substantial reduction in overhead costs, following a review whose main work has been completed this month;
- By further reducing the property portfolio;
- By business planning, comparing internal and external prices, and matching in-house resource costs to the purchasing intentions of our programme-makers;
- By undertaking a major

training programme for 2,000 staff in new skills and responsibilities, and by retaining our training commitment for the future.

I am frequently asked why the BBC has embarked on Producer Choice before the main public and political debate about the renewal of its charter. That debate should be about the BBC's public service purposes, and why they justify public funding. It will focus on the BBC's programme remit after 1996.

However, the BBC must have the management means of translating its purposes into high quality programmes. And, there is the tricky question of the BBC's size. It is not enough to say that we will do something about it after 1996.

Nor is there a magic headcount target. The right size is what is needed to do the job effectively and efficiently. Producer Choice is designed to find it.

● The author is the BBC's project director, Producer Choice.

## Head hunting at the top schools

PR and marketing assume a bigger role as more leading jobs in education fall vacant

"Certainly the job description has changed," says Elizabeth Digory, the headmistress of St Albans' High School and president of the Girls' Schools Association, commenting on the new breed of headmasters and headmistresses who have emerged over the last 20 years. "Although heads have always had responsibility for their own budgets, now they spend much more time managing, and fewer and fewer of us do very much teaching."

One cause for the recent spate of heads of well-known schools resigning "prematurely" has been a breakdown in the parent-head relationship. Miss Digory sees the public relations side of the job as critical.

Dr Arthur Hearnden, the general secretary of the Independent School's Joint Council, thinks the job of head has "intensified rather than changed. The pressures are greater than they were. Marketing is beginning to play a much bigger role, and the most effective marketing is still by word of mouth." This means happy and successful pupils, and satisfied parents. The result is a stronger drive to increase quality, and a more exacting job for the head.

Sophisticated management skills are also needed, says David Jewell, the Master of Haileybury and recently chairman of the Headmasters' Conference. "Heads must know about management by objectives, spans of control and so on. They need to be financially literate," he says.

All three agree that above all these new requirements,

remains the essential ability to relate well with children and colleagues.

In spite of the undisputed challenges of the job, however, Roger Griffiths, member-secretary of the Headmasters' Conference and former head of Hurstpierpoint College, reveals an interesting phenomenon. "Many heads, myself includ-

selection: and that because they have children, that they know all about schools and education. In addition, Dr Hearnden is aware of some schools whose governors believe that they do not have the time necessary to carry out all the selection procedures adequately.

The result is a slow migration towards enlisting the help of professionals. Diana Ellis, former headmistress of Lavant House, now heads the education practice at management selection consultants, NB Selection. She agrees current practice often leaves much to be desired.

"Quite often, the secretary to the board, or the bursar, plays a very active role; these people are appointing someone very senior to themselves, and later this can be awkward. Other difficulties arise when governors half consult the staff and then appoint someone completely different. That person never gets the wholehearted approval of their underlings."

Miss Ellis says independent advisers have the advantage of not being involved in the internal politics, that their appointment shows that the governors do think analytically and that they manage the process professionally, keeping candidates informed.

Mr Jewell, who has himself advised several governing boards, argues that, with the help of a serving or very recently retired head, most boards should be able to manage without professional help, although the process must be carried out with care.

CLARE HOGG



Elizabeth Digory

ed, begin to feel the need for a change of direction in their mid-fifties. Simon Langdale (Shrewsbury), Roger Ellis (Marlborough) and John Cook (Epsom College) are all examples."

This phenomenon, together with the unexpected resignations reported in the press, is resulting in a surprising number of vacant posts.

The spotlight has turned on the selection process for filling these posts. There is a general criticism that many governors, being business people themselves, imagine that they are experts in

071-481 1066

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## HELP US FORGE NEW STANDARDS IN HEALTHCARE

Manchester Central Hospitals & Community Care NHS Trust is a first-wave Trust with an expenditure for 1992/93 of £130m and a workforce of 6,000. In association with the University of Manchester Medical School, the Trust is an undergraduate teaching and research centre comprising Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, St Mary's Hospital, Manchester Dental Hospital and

associated Community Services. We are committed to being the preferred supplier of high quality healthcare within the North West, fostering high quality medical, scientific and health service related research, and providing education and training to the highest international standards for all healthcare professionals. In short, we aim to be world-class.

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Working with our new Chairman, Trust Board Members and major healthcare purchasers, your role will be to ensure strategies are developed, implemented and communicated, which continue and enhance the Trust's enviable reputation for teaching, clinical innovation and the excellence of its patient care.

Already a Chief Executive or possibly a Deputy Chief Executive, ideally in a large healthcare organisation, you will be able to illustrate, through genuine achievements, the ability and potential to manage such a complex organisation. Certainly, you must be able to demonstrate both an ability to stimulate

the Executive Board to define and articulate corporate strategy and possess the strong management skills necessary to secure its implementation.

An application form, together with a job description and information pack, are available from Richard Sugden, Director of Personnel, Manchester Central Hospitals & Community Care NHS Trust, Cobbett House, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9WL. Tel 061 276 4795. Closing date for receipt of application forms is Friday 9th October 1992.

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MANCHESTER CENTRAL HOSPITALS AND COMMUNITY CARE NHS TRUST

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c. £50,000

The pending retirement of the current Chief Executive together with the Local Government Review and its implications form a fascinating and challenging backdrop for this appointment.

Burnley, which expects to achieve Unitary Authority status, has a revenue turnover of £40m and varied capital programme of £15m. We also sponsor a number of major Government initiatives including an Enterprise Zone and an Inner Urban Area Programme.

We are looking for an innovative and progressive professional to get to grips with these and other challenges and manage the Authority through the 1990s and beyond.

Reflecting our commitment to providing the highest possible standards of service to our population of c.90,000, you will be expected to challenge traditional attitudes and practices, with the objective of making our name synonymous with forward-thinking in the Local Authority arena. As the Council's principal policy adviser on strategic and corporate issues and organisational development, you will be in a prime position to influence its direction and develop a new culture to match the challenges ahead.

You must be able clearly to demonstrate strong communication, management and leadership skills, evidenced by an excellent track record at senior level within a Local Authority or other large and complex organisation. Your ability to forge a strong partnership between officers and elected members will reflect your level of interpersonal skills and a clear appreciation of the issues facing Local Government.

Burnley is situated in North East Lancashire, connected to the M6 by the M65 motorway. Our 43 square miles include large rural tracts along with the urban cores of Burnley and Padiham.

A first-class salary and benefits package is available. For an informal chat please contact Steve Priestley on 0282-25011 ext 2117.

For an application form and information pack, please contact Geoff Pickles or June Wilkinson - Personnel Section - Chief Executive Officer's Department, Town Hall, Burnley, Lancashire (0282 - 25011 ext 2163/2164). Closing date: Friday 16th October 1992.

BURNLEY

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The National Consumer Council promotes and protects the interests of consumers, not just in the high street, but on such varied issues as food, housing and health. We do so by sound research and robust lobbying.

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Lorna Bell  
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Tel: 071 730 3469

Closing date for completed applications: 12 noon Wednesday 28 October, interviews: 11 and 12 November 1992.

National Consumer Council

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The Secretary, C.A.B.A.  
301 Salisbury House, London Wall,  
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## DIRECTOR c. £20,000

The Child Psychotherapy Trust is a London-based charity, unique and pioneering in its aims to make NHS treatment for emotionally damaged children more widely available throughout the UK. The Trust's aim is to appoint a Director to create awareness of the urgent need to develop child psychotherapy within child mental health teams and to be responsible for funding a full programme of training grants, innovative projects and new trainings outside London. This new post is funded by The Department of Health.

Currently there are only 225 Child Psychotherapists practising within the UK. This number is disproportionately low compared with the number suitable for training, chiefly because trainees have to pay costs themselves for a long and intensive post-graduate training.

With the Association of Child Psychotherapists, the official body of the profession, the Trust is undertaking a campaign, supported by major children's organisations, aimed at the highest levels of decision taking to seek ways of funding training within the NHS to complement the existing career structure for qualified Child Psychotherapists.

The Director will report to the Trustees and be responsible for a fulltime administrative. The Director will help to define and implement a strategic plan and be responsible for an extensive fund-raising and public relations campaign to develop services nationally and regionally.

We are looking for commitment to our objectives, an outstanding track record appropriate to our needs and management experience. Essential personal qualities are tact and confidence combined with excellent presentation skills.

Please send a full CV in confidence to:

Dilly Dewe, Chair,  
The Child Psychotherapy Trust,  
c/o THER, The Tavistock Centre,  
120 Belgrave Lane, London, NW3 5BA

Closing Date: 6th October 1992.







## BBC1

- 6.00 CeeFax (33844) 6.30 Breakfast News (78717551)  
9.05 Perfect Strangers (1) (6105006) 9.30 The Solent Way (1) (97071)  
10.00 News, regional news and weather (4300071) 10.05 Maydays (1) (9292209) 10.25 Barney (1) (4483358) 10.35 Hudson and Halls  
prepare lamb curry and cumin rice salad (1) (5139667)  
11.00 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (8958087) 11.05  
Aussies. The second of a five-part exploration by Jack Pizzey of the  
Australian way of life (5329808)  
12.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (7940532) 12.05 The Incredible  
Machine. A documentary about new camera techniques which  
make it possible to examine the workings of the human body (1)  
(2065174) 12.55 Regional News and weather (79360862)  
1.00 One O'Clock News. (CeeFax) Weather (53700)  
1.30 Neighbours. (CeeFax) (1) (4391113) 1.50 Going for Gold. Quiz  
game presented by the affable Henry Kelly (1) (43922209)  
2.15 Film: Puzzle (1978) starring James Franciscus and Wendy Hughes.  
Routine Australian thriller about a woman who turns to her first  
husband for help after her second commits suicide, leaving her  
with an unexpected problem. Directed by Gordon Hessler  
(266648)  
3.50 Opposite Attraction (1) (8830445) 4.00 The Further  
Adventures of SuperTed (1) (8732919) 4.15 Pottsworth & Co (1)  
(6282984) 4.35 Heatbeat. Picture making series. (CeeFax) (1)  
(8519464)  
5.00 Newsround (3470984) 5.10 The Village by the Sea. The first of a  
new six-part drama series. (CeeFax) (209716)  
5.35 Neighbours. (CeeFax) (1) (187484). Northern Ireland: Inside  
Ulster  
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. (CeeFax)  
Weather (777)  
6.30 Regional News Magazines (667). Northern Ireland: Neighbours  
7.00 Telly Addicts. Television trivia quiz (1) (3071)  
7.30 Eastenders. (CeeFax) (1) (551)  
8.00 Citizen Smith. John Sullivan's classic pre-Only Fools and Horses  
comedy series starring Robert Lindsay (1). (CeeFax) (2919)  
8.30 2 Point 4 Children. Domestic comedy. (CeeFax) (1) (4754)  
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Barker. (CeeFax) Regional news  
and weather (1648)



Hard cases: paratroopers face civilian life (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Civvies.  
● CHOICE: When the BBC trails a series as "powerful and explosive" you can be sure it includes shots of men kicking each other's heads in. Since the heroes of Lynda La Plante's drama are former paratroopers, folk not noted for setting arguments peacefully, such aggression is much to be feared. The theme is the difficulty these tough-guy army men have in adjusting to civilian life. According to La Plante, the choice is going on the dole or a life of crime. It is a strongly written series but an unpleasant one, which does little to promote the goodness of the human spirit. Jason Isaacs, Peter Howitt and Edward O'Connell star as the ex-paras and Peter O'Toole plays a snarling gangster (CeeFax) (1) (419735)  
10.25 Omnibus: Disney — the Fairy-Tale Years.  
● CHOICE: Walt Disney without Mickey Mouse is not necessarily Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark. The theme of this study is Disney as a teller of fairy tales, which means concentrating on a few films, notably Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and Sleeping Beauty, and leaving out the rest. The concern is less with the techniques of animation than in assessing how familiar plots were adapted to Disney's belief in traditional American values. Often this meant imposing a happy ending where none existed. The story is brought up to date by noting the studio's return to the fairy tale with Beauty and the Beast. (CeeFax) (1) (315124). Northern Ireland: Dilemmas 11.05 Omnibus 11.55-12.55am Film: Point Blank  
11.15 Film: The Elephant Man (1980, b/w). A moving interpretation of the life of John Merrick (John Hurt), the Victorian circus freak who was taken under the wing of a compassionate surgeon. Directed by David Lynch. (CeeFax) (711209) 1.15am Weather (8371656). Ends at 1.20  
2.15 BBC Select: Executive Business Club. (40174). Ends at 2.45

## BBC2

- 8.00 News (9054358)  
8.15 Writers' Houses. Lord David Cecil writes the Hampshire village of Chawston, home of Jane Austen (1) (9077209) 8.30 Play Better Golf with Peter Alliss (1) (58648)  
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes  
2.00 News and weather (2401237) followed by You and Me (1) (40581700) 2.15 Settling Through. Alma, the widow of broadcaster Ray Moore, talks about how she coped after his death through cancer (1) (40674454) 2.30 Sign Extra: QED — The Battle of the Bottle Snatchers. A documentary about the development of robotic rubbish collectors, adapted for the hearing impaired (1) (700)  
3.00 News and weather (4464087) followed by All Our Children. How parents around the world come to terms with children's illness and disability (1) (8492754) 3.30 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (8838087)  
4.00 Great Journeys: Across the South Pacific. Yachtswoman Dame Naomi James sails from the island of Tonga to remote Easter Island via the Cook and Society Islands and Tahiti on a pilgrimage to explore the threatened South Sea paradise, its people and the legacy of the Europeans, from the 18th-century explorers to the nuclear tests of the mid-1960s onwards (1). (CeeFax) (3006)  
5.00 Railroad Women. A documentary film history about the women who helped build and operate the railroads of America from the mid-19th century to the present day (4377)  
5.30 Film: The Ambassadors (1980). Six Roberts investigate the sinister disappearance of his dream girl (62377)  
6.00 Film: Northwest Frontier (1959) starring Kenneth More and Lauren Balle. Entertaining Boys' Own Paper adventure about a British army officer who rescues a young Hindu prince from a rebellion and escorts him on a perilous train journey to safety. Directed by J. Lee Thompson. (CeeFax) (1601710)  
8.10 The Works. Series celebrating the role of engineering in modern society. This week's programme explores how engineers tackle the fall-safe problems. (CeeFax) (177193)  
8.30 Floyd on Spain. Keith Floyd enjoys Andalusian fare, accompanied by guitarist John Williams. (CeeFax) (2396)  
9.00 The Mary Whitehouse Experience. Off-beat comedy from David Baddiel, Hugh Dennis, Rob Newman and Steve Punt (1) (5) (2990)



Cost of survival: captive animals in Zimbabwe (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Nature Special: If the Rains Don't Come.  
● CHOICE: Documentaries about the starving of Africa have become sadly familiar but this report by Julian Pettifer breaks new ground. It comes from Zimbabwe, not a country normally associated with drought, and it is as much about animals as human beings. With little exaggeration the film uses the word catastrophe to describe the effect of years without serious rain on the people, their livestock, wildlife and the land itself. In the biggest animal rescue operation ever attempted, hippo, zebra and buffalo are being rounded up and looked after in captivity. But the cost is high and has to be justified when millions of humans have barely enough to eat. Once the basket of southern Africa, Zimbabwe is now dependent on foreign aid, subject to the usual crippling conditions. The African tragedy seems endless. (CeeFax) (42025)  
10.20 Time Passing. A film short about a Norfolk cottage threatened by coastal erosion (647483)  
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman (624025)  
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (1) (214342)  
11.55 Weather (473358)  
12.00 Open University: Understanding Violence (21491). Ends at 12.30am

## ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (5427071)  
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw. Celebrity game show hosted by the dulcet-toned Danni Baker (1) (619990) 9.55 Thames News (7671919)  
10.00 The Time... The Place... Topical discussion series (7938754)  
10.40 This Morning. Magazine series presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Today's edition includes the first of a twice-weekly, eight-minute drama soap about a woman having an affair with a married man (9664251)  
12.10 Playbox. Early-learning programme (1) (5715938)  
12.30 Lunchtime News. (CeeFax) Weather (2783667) 1.05 Thames News (6908280)  
1.15 Home and Away. Australian drama. (Oracle) (217613) 1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama series (1) (216984)  
2.15 Mavis Catchers Up With... Mavis Nicholson talks to best-selling novelist Sue Townsend (504159) 2.45 Families. Soap linking the north of England with Australia (5809782)  
3.10 ITN News headlines (4475193) 3.15 Thames News headlines (4474464) 3.20 The Young Doctors (3587006)  
3.50 Raggle Raggle. Puppet series (4321667) 4.05 The Raggy Dolls. Animation (1) (6313822) 4.15 Take Off With T-Bag starring Georgina Hale (534532) 4.40 Children's Ward. Drama serial set in a large hospital (1). (Oracle) (1) (9206629)  
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz (9864377)  
5.40 Early Evening News. (Oracle) Weather (3580225)  
5.55 Thames Help (1) (57794)  
6.00 Home and Away. (Oracle) (483)  
6.30 Thames News (735)  
7.00 Emmerdale. Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle) (1667)  
7.30 Survival: Chimps — So Like Us. A special one-off edition looking at Jane Goodall's 30-year study of chimpanzees (919)  
8.00 The Bill: Force is for the Service. PC Loxton is the subject of a complaint by a prisoner who accuses him of roughing him up. Loxton believes he used reasonable force when arresting the man. (Oracle) (7087)  
8.30 Men Behaving Badly: How to Dump Your Girlfriend.  
● CHOICE: A progress report on Simon Nye's fast-track sitcom, now well into its second series, is that a little is being made to go rather a long way. Men Behaving Badly is sustained on two basic jokes. One is that domestic Gary (Martin Clunes) and Tony (Neil Morrissey) cannot cope with domestic chores. This is the cue for gaps along the lines of the more mess you have on the floor, the less need there is to Hoover it. The other is that Gary and Tony cannot cope with girls, though much of their talk is about the promise of sexual conquest, delivered in the language of dirty schoolboys. Tonight's plot has Tony trying to dump girlfriend Fat (Debra Beaumont) in favour of Deborah (Sally Knyvette), the blonde from upstairs. Do not expect subtlety. (Oracle) (1) (9622)



In safe hands: Michael Elphick as the private eye (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Boon: Walkout. Comedy drama series starring Michael Elphick as a private detective working for a Midlands agency. This week his investigations are nearer to home as something goes missing from the office safe. With David Daker, Neil Morrissey and Saskia Wickham. (Oracle) (8667)  
10.00 News at Ten. (Oracle) Weather (57919) 10.30 Thames News (294483)  
10.40 Before Columbus: Conversion. Second of three-part documentary series marking the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's voyage to the New World. (Oracle) (453464)  
11.40 Prisoner: Block H. Risible Australian women-behind-bars drama series (669483)  
12.30am Video View. The latest releases reviewed (70491)  
1.30 The Equalizer. McCall goes to the assistance of a woman threatened by a cop killer. Starring Edward Woodward (1) (49830)  
2.30 Donahue. How people cope with sex problems (1902694)  
3.20 60 Minutes. American news magazine (2700101)  
4.10 The Wildcat: Royal Lymington Club. Yacht racing (10472439)  
4.40 Short Story Theatre: Sunshine's on the Way. The story of a teenage girl who wants to be a jazz trombonist (1260526)  
5.30 ITN Morning News (26946). Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (5425613)  
9.25 Schools (88737071)  
12.00 The Munsters (b/w). Vintage comedy about a ghoulish American family (1) (47532)  
12.30 Profile of Nature. A film made by Myrna and Walter Berlet about the gentle domestic life of the great horned owl, an often savage predator (97025)  
1.00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series (1) (85280)  
2.00 Film: Go Into Your Dance (1935, b/w) starring Al Jolson and Ruby Keeler. Likeable backstage musical about a performer who hits the bottle and becomes dangerously involved with gangsters when he begins his comeback. Directed by Archie Mayo (272174)  
3.40 The Three Stooges in Hollywood (b/w) (5067260)  
4.00 A Houseful of Plants. Includes a look at contrasting designs for a small patio and terrace space (1). (Teletext) (648)  
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whalley with another round of the words and numbers game (1) (532)  
5.00 Crawshaw Paints on Holiday. Alwyn Crawshaw visits the oldest orange grove on Mallorca and paints a variety of subjects (9445)  
5.30 If Wishes Were Horses. The third of six programmes following the fortunes of a group of children of mixed ability learning to ride. This week, trotting and a visit to the South of England Show (1) (5) (984)  
6.00 Desmond's. Comedy series set in a south London barber's. Starring Norman Boston (1). (Teletext) (1) (975)  
6.30 Roseanne. Wise-cracking domestic comedy series starring Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman (1). (Teletext) (1) (377)  
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Weather (716377)  
7.50 Comment (909629)  
8.00 Bring Back the Buzzard. A wildlife documentary about the common buzzard, one of Britain's largest birds of prey. (Teletext) (5629)  
8.30 Check Out 92. Consumer affairs series. This week Judith Burns asks if the rapid growth of supermarket chains has got out of hand (1) (7464)  
9.00 Jesus Before Christ. Once a committed Christian, now a doubter, A.N. Wilson visits the holy sites and archaeological digs of Israel to find out more about the real Jesus (6205)



Scotsman in the smoke: Robert Carlyle as Stevie (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Film on Four: Riff-Raff (1990) starring Robert Carlyle and Eimer McCourt. Prize-winning comedy by Ken Loach which presents a funny but poignant portrait of life in London for those struggling to survive. Stevie, a young Glaswegian, arrives in London looking for building site work. He meets Susan, a pretty young woman with ambitions to be a singer. (Teletext) (321377)  
11.50 Empty Nest. American comedy series starring Richard Mulligan as a widowed medical man living on the Miami coast (970071)  
12.00am Goya. The fourth of six-part Spanish drama series about the life and works of the painter (1). (Teletext) (8566385)  
1.20 Film: Black Eyes (1935, b/w) starring Mary Maguire and Otto Kruger. Pleading tale of a head waiter in pre-revolutionary Russia who makes a lucrative living by eavesdropping on his customers' conversations. Directed by Herbert Brenson (5801742). Ends at 2.35

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3.20 60 Minutes. American news magazine (2700101)  
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**Life Preserver**

Disaster at sea is something we have to learn to live with. But worse things can happen ashore — when sailors grow old, become disabled, fall on hard times, leave widows to be cared for and children to be educated.

King George's Fund looks after Royal Navy and Royal Marines widows and orphans from two World Wars and the Falklands Campaign to the present day. It is also the vital safety net for the many charities which serve the Merchant and Fishing Fleets. In 1991 alone, nearly 100 maritime charities received £2m in help from KGFS.

All these charities rely heavily on us — as we need to rely on you. Your gift and your legacy will be their lifeline in a very special sense. Please give us your support!

**KING GEORGE'S FUND FOR SAILORS**

The Safety Net for all Seafarers.

1 Chesham Street, London SW1X 8NF  
Tel: 071-235 2884 Charity 226446

- 2.00pm Fast Charlie. The Moonbeam Rider (1979). An army deserter enters the long-distance bicycle race (70360)  
4.30 Little Miss Perfect (1987). A girl is upset when her mother remarries (49338)  
5.00 Stopped Up. Romantic drama (2380)  
6.00 The Little Romance (10am) (730676)  
7.00 Entertainment Tonight (380445)  
8.00 The Little Romance (10am) (730676)  
9.00 China O'Brien (1989). Marital arts drama starring Cynthia Rothrock (88390)  
11.30am Look Up (1989). Sylvester Stallone is kidnapped in prison (642059)  
12.30am The Wedding Banquet (1991). Susan Lucci is accused of murder following an illicit romance (255304)  
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